**Part 10 – The After Party – Acts**

**Getting to the next level.**

**What are you doing to step into the next level God has for you?**

**Ephesians 3:20**

**With God’s power working in us, God can do much, much more than anything we can ask or imagine.**

**Getting to the next level.**

**Acts 6:1-7**

**In those days when the number of disciples was increasing, the Hellenistic Jews among them complained against the Hebraic Jews because their widows were being overlooked in the daily distribution of food.**

**So the Twelve gathered all the disciples together and said, “It would not be right for us to neglect the ministry of the word of God in order to wait on tables.**

**Brothers and sisters, choose seven men from among you who are known to be full of the Spirit and wisdom. We will turn this responsibility over to them and will give our attention to prayer and the ministry of the word.”**

**This proposal pleased the whole group. They chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit; also Philip, Procorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolas from Antioch, a convert to Judaism. They presented these men to the apostles, who prayed and laid their hands on them.**

**So the word of God spread. The number of disciples in Jerusalem increased rapidly, and a large number of priests became obedient to the faith.**

**What does it take to get to the next level?**

* **Christlike Culture**

**Your culture is what shapes your beliefs and values. It shapes how you live and interact with others.**

**Two things that can kill Christlike culture.**

**Division can kill the culture.**

**1 Corinthians 1:10**

**I appeal to you, dear brothers and sisters, by the authority of our Lord Jesus Christ, to live in harmony with each other. Let there be no divisions in the church. Rather, be of one mind, united in thought and purpose.**

**Complainers can kill the culture.**

**Philippians 2:14-16**

**Do everything without grumbling or arguing, so that you may become blameless and pure, “children of God without fault in a warped and crooked generation.”**

* **Christlike Character**

**Acts 6:2-4**

**So the Twelve gathered all the disciples together and said, “It would not be right for us to neglect the ministry of the word of God in order to wait on tables.**

**Brothers and sisters, choose seven men from among you who are known to be full of the Spirit and wisdom. We will turn this responsibility over to them and will give our attention to prayer and the ministry of the word.”**

**Christlike character consistently does the right thing at the right time in the right way for the right reason.**

**Bad character consistently does the wrong thing at the wrong time in the wrong way for the wrong reasons.**

**1 Corinthians 15:33**

**Do not be misled: “Bad company corrupts good character.”**

**1 John 2:6**

**Those who say they live in God should live their lives as Jesus did.**

* **Christlike Competence**

**Acts 6:7**

**So the word of God spread. The number of disciples in Jerusalem increased rapidly, and a large number of priests became obedient to the faith.**

**Matthew 9:38**

**“The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.”**

**Where do you need to grow—culture, character, or competence?**