



STEPHEN THE PROTOMARTYR



**The blood
of the
martyrs is
the seed
of the
church**

SEED

Unless a grain of wheat is buried in the ground, dead to the world, it is never more than a grain of wheat. But if it is buried, it sprouts and reproduces itself many times over.

Roman 12:24 MSG

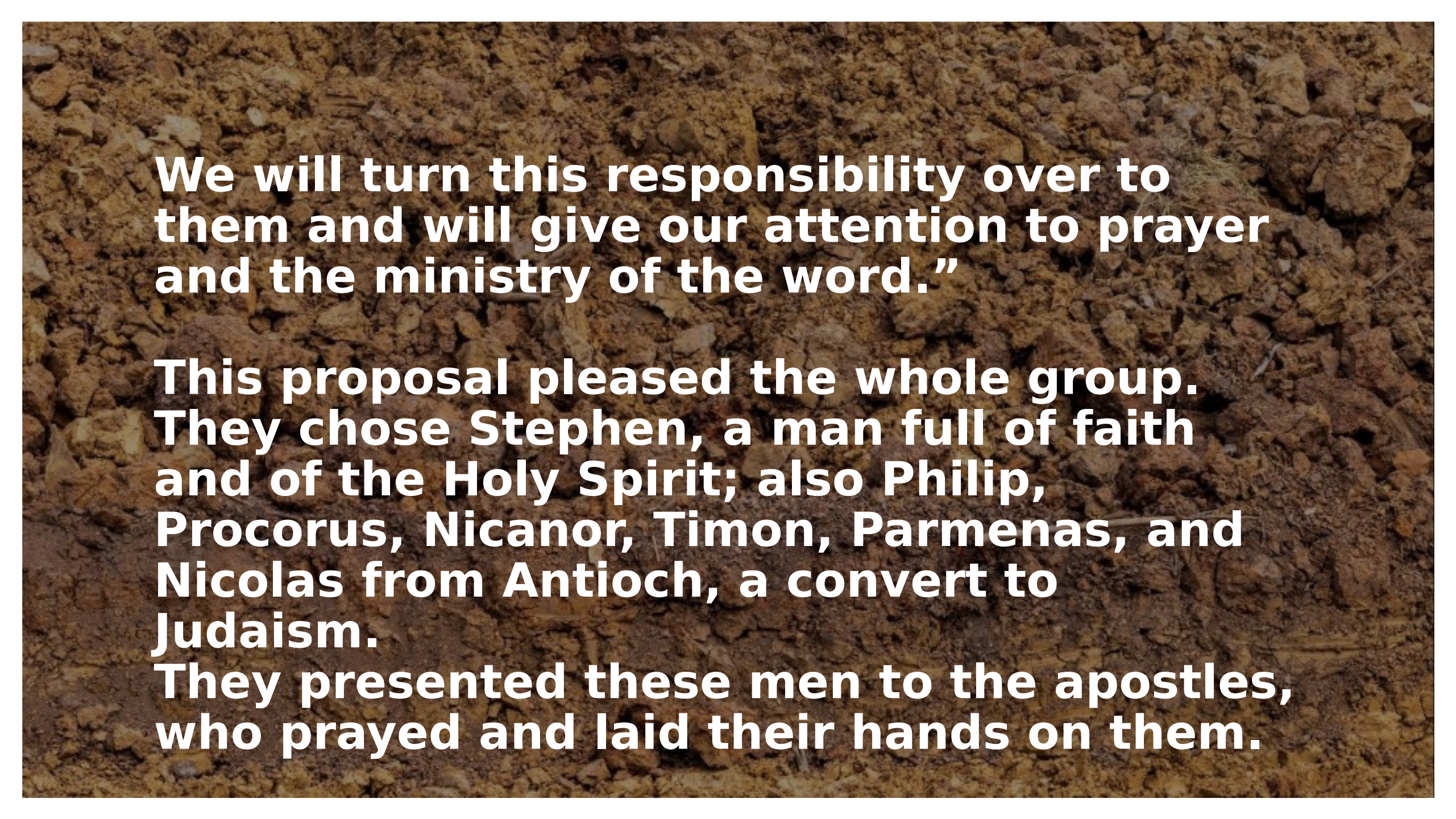


SOIL

Acts 6:1-6 The Choosing of the Seven

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.

NURTURE

Galatians 6:9 (NIV)

**Let us not become
weary in doing good
for at the proper time
we will reap a harvest
if we do not give up.**





GROWTH

Acts 6:7 (NIV)

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.



HARVEST

**James 3:18
(NIV)**

**Peacemakers
who sow in
peace raise a
harvest of
righteousness**

DYING

Psalm 5:3 (MSG)

Every morning I
lay out the
pieces of my life
on your altar
and watch for
fire to descend.

