

God Is Still in It

— ACTS 6:1-7 —

— JOHN DAVIS PERRY, II —

CHALLENGES

CLARITY

PEOPLE

PURPOSE

PROGRESS

SAME

GOD

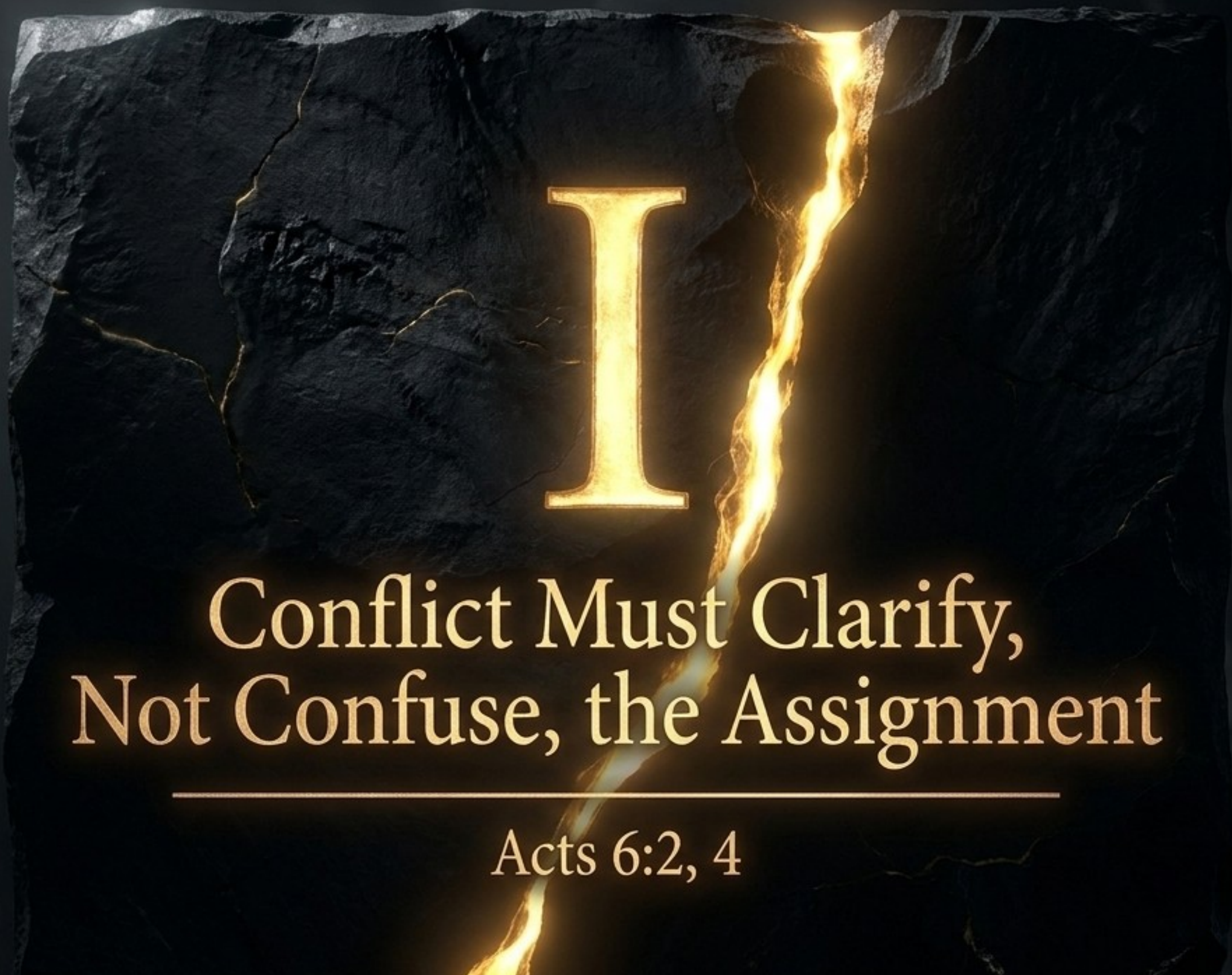
HIGHER

PURPOSE

The Governing Premise

Godly advancement does not exempt us from adversity. Yet, when adversity is managed under divine direction, it can become an avenue for further advancement rather than an obstacle that derails it.

What happens when the very advancement God is producing generates adversity capable of disrupting the progress God has initiated?



II

Conflict Must Clarify,
Not Confuse, the Assignment

Acts 6:2, 4

Adversity Exposes the Essential



Conflict often exposes what we actually believe is essential.

When there is no pressure, priorities can remain theoretical.

But when everything demands attention at once, conflict forces a decision.

{ The adversity did not change their calling.
It made them define it more clearly. }

III

Kingdom Conflict Must Strengthen
Covenant, Not Create Camps

Acts 6:1–2

The Danger of Identity Formation

The Anatomy of Division



The Gathering Mandate

Insight 1: Covenant does not mean grievances will never occur. Believers can genuinely hurt or overlook one another.

Insight 2: A legitimate grievance does not justify permanent relational fragmentation. Being right about what happened does not make every response to what happened right.

Conclusion: Conflict may reveal differences, but covenant determines how we handle them.

The background of the slide is a dramatic, low-angle shot of a ruined ancient temple. Several tall, fluted columns are visible, some of which are illuminated from within, casting a warm, golden glow. The ground is composed of large, dark stone blocks, many of which are cracked and broken, with glowing light emanating from the fissures. The overall atmosphere is one of mystery and ancient grandeur.

III

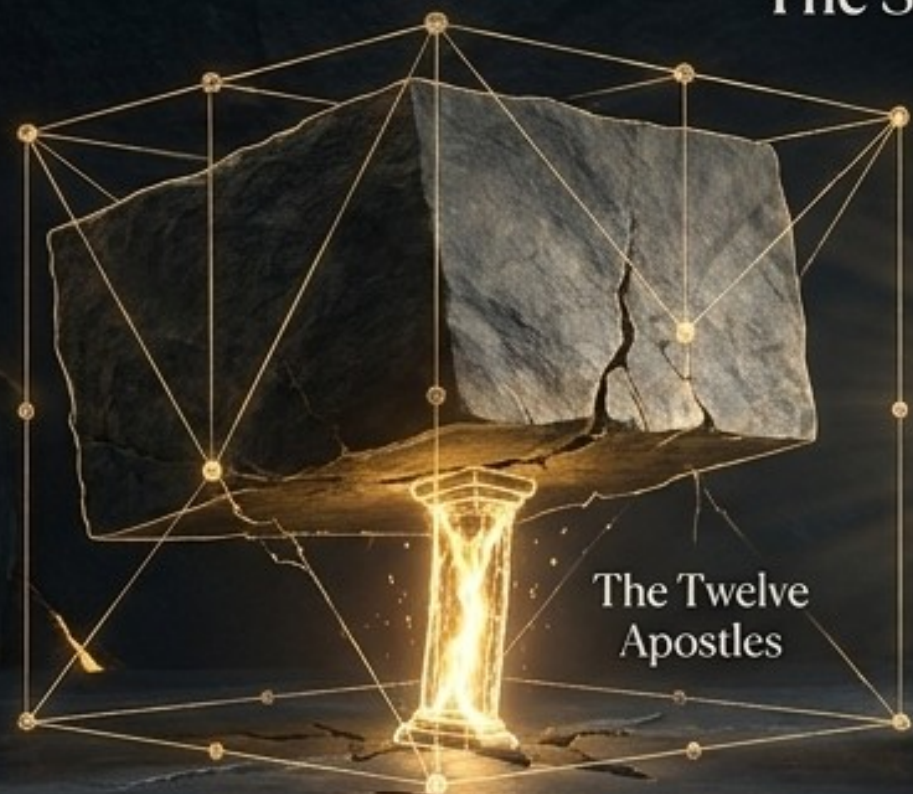
Kingdom Conflict Must
Produce Structural Correction,
Not Temporary Appeasement

Acts 6:3–6

Upgrading the Operating Model

The Structural Shift Blueprint

Model A



The Twelve Apostles



Model B



The Seven Leaders

Concept

A resolved complaint is not enough if the conditions that produced it remain unchanged. The church had grown beyond the capacity of its previous operating model.

Execution

The Twelve do not absorb additional responsibility. They release qualified people into responsibility.

Revealing Underused Capacity



The seven leaders were already among them.

The problem did not create their character; it created a circumstance in which what they carried became necessary.

Key Insight

The danger is peace without correction. Everybody becomes quiet, but nothing changes. That is not resolution. That is postponement.



IV

Protected Purpose Produces Continued Kingdom Productivity

Acts 6:4, 7

The Harvest of Divine Direction

The Results:

- The neglected need is addressed.
- The community remains together.
- Leadership expands.

The Principle: When conflict is resolved under divine direction without sacrificing covenant or purpose, adversity becomes part of the process of greater advancement.

Multiplied
Multiplied
Greatly

The Engine of Advancement



Summary: The church didn't merely survive conflict. Through kingdom governance, conflict became the means by which the church was strengthened to carry the advancement God had already begun.



The Ultimate Threat

The greatest threat in conflict is not always the original problem. It is what the problem is permitted to redefine—our assignment, our relationships, our structure, or our future.

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