



THE PRESENCE

LIVING LIFE WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT

Galatians 5 (NLT)

**25 Since we are living by the Spirit,
let us follow the Spirit's leading
in every part of our lives.**





The Reconciling Presence

Scott Hayden

A lighthouse on a rocky cliff with a beam of light shining across a stormy sea. The scene is rendered in a painterly style with a muted color palette of greys, blues, and browns. The lighthouse is on the left, and the beam of light extends from it towards the center of the frame. The sea is turbulent with white-capped waves. The sky is filled with dark, heavy clouds, and several birds are visible in flight.

Acts 6:1-7

Background

Acts 6 (NLT)

¹But as the believers rapidly multiplied, there were rumblings of discontent. The Greek-speaking believers complained about the Hebrew-speaking believers, saying that their widows were being discriminated against in the daily distribution of food.



Acts 6 (NLT)

²So the Twelve called a meeting of all the believers.



Acts 6 (NLT)

²They said, "We apostles should spend our time teaching the word of God, not running a food program.

³ And so, brothers, select seven men who are well respected and are full of the Spirit and wisdom. We will give them this responsibility. ⁴ Then we apostles can spend our time in prayer and teaching the word."



Acts 6 (NLT)

**⁵Everyone liked this idea, and they chose the following:
Stephen (a man full of faith and the Holy Spirit),
Philip, Procorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas,
and Nicolas of Antioch
(an earlier convert to the Jewish faith).**



Acts 6 (NLT)

6 These seven were presented to the apostles,
who prayed for them
as they laid their hands on them.



Acts 6 (NLT)

7 So God's message continued to spread. The number of believers greatly increased in Jerusalem, and many of the Jewish priests were converted, too.



SCENES

1. Believers increased
2. Greek-speakers complained
3. The Twelve called a meeting
4. Everyone chose 7
5. Believers increased greatly + priests



SCENES

A Believers increased

B Greek-speakers complained

C The Twelve called a meeting

B' Everyone chose 7

A' Believers increased **greatly + priests**



A lighthouse is visible on the left side of the image, perched on a rocky cliff. The sea is turbulent with white-capped waves crashing against the shore. The sky is filled with dark, heavy clouds, creating a dramatic and somewhat somber atmosphere. The overall scene suggests a place of isolation and resilience.

What happened

Why it worked

Would it work for us?

A lighthouse on a rocky cliff overlooking a stormy sea with crashing waves.

What happened

Problem

Proposal

Propulsion

What happened

Problem

- Rumblings of discontent
- Greek speaking
- Hebrew speakers
- Discriminating
- Apostolic ministry threatened
- Widows

What happened

Problem

Communication

Cross-cultural

Language

Assumed power

Leadership

Financial triple vulnerability

A lighthouse stands on a rocky cliff on the left side of the image. The background is a dramatic, stormy sea with dark, turbulent waves crashing against the shore. The overall scene is dark and moody, with a greyish-blue color palette. The text is overlaid on the upper left portion of the image.

What happened

Problem

Proposal

Acts 6 (NLT)

²They said, "We apostles should spend our time teaching the word of God, not running a food program. ³ And so, brothers, select seven men who are well respected and are full of the Spirit and wisdom. We will give them this responsibility. ⁴ Then we apostles can spend our time in prayer and teaching the word."



What happened

Proposal



Fake it
Force it



Forge it

Acts 6 (NLT)

We apostles should spend our time teaching the word of God, not running a food program.

KNOWN

And so, brothers, select seven men who are well respected and are full of the Spirit and wisdom.

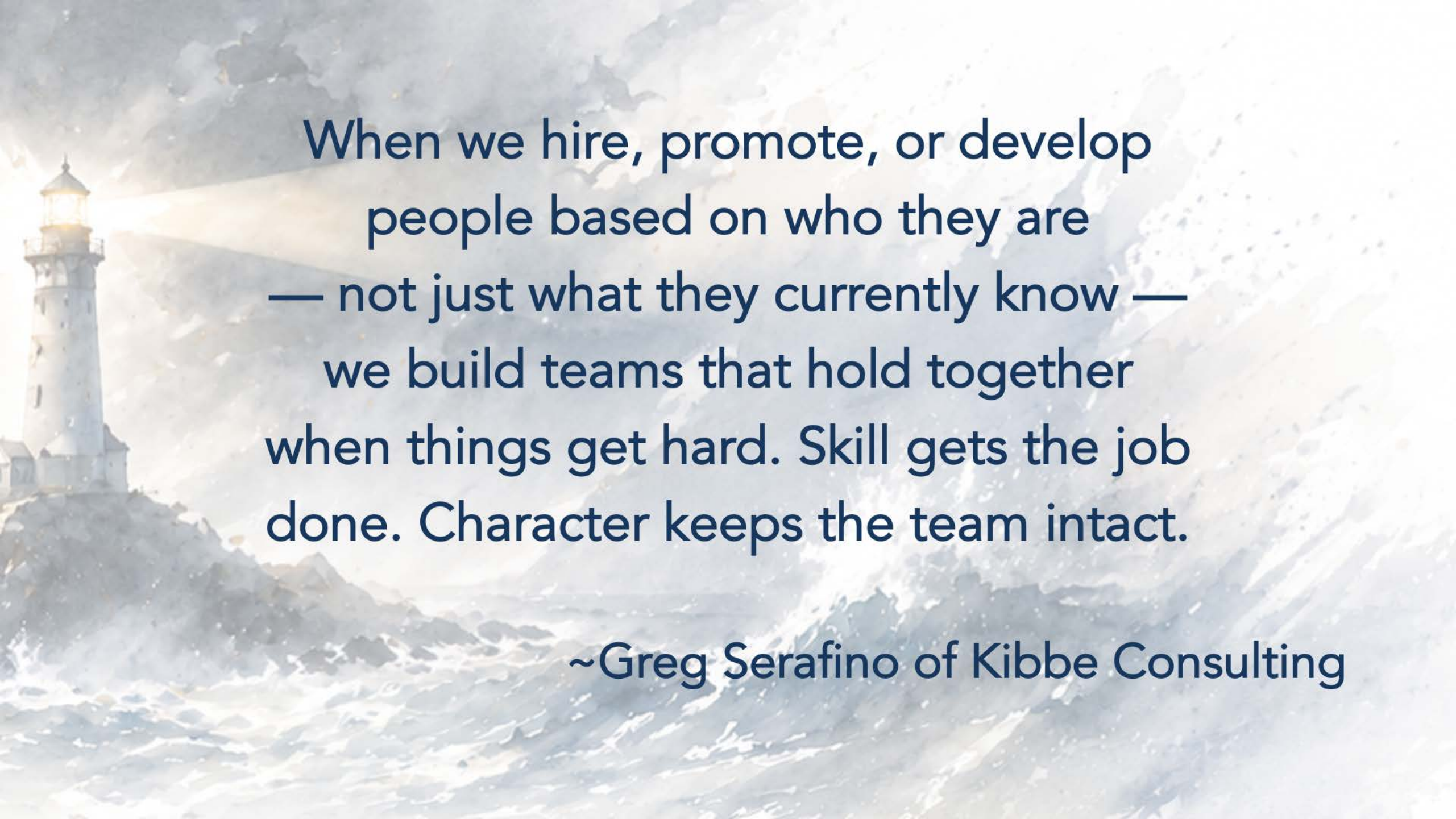
We will give them this responsibility.

Then we apostles can spend our time in *prayer* and teaching the word.



A painting of a lighthouse on a rocky cliff. The lighthouse is white with a yellow light at the top. A beam of light shines from the lighthouse across the sea. The sea is dark and stormy with white-capped waves. The sky is dark and cloudy. The word "Character" is written in white text in the center of the image.

Character

A lighthouse on a rocky cliff with a beam of light shining across a stormy sea.

When we hire, promote, or develop people based on who they are — not just what they currently know — we build teams that hold together when things get hard. Skill gets the job done. Character keeps the team intact.

~Greg Serafino of Kibbe Consulting

A lighthouse on a rocky cliff overlooking a stormy sea with crashing waves.

What happened

Problem

Proposal

Propulsion

Acts 6 (NLT)

⁵Everyone liked this idea...



Acts 6 (NLT)

⁵Everyone liked this idea, and they chose the following:

Stephen (a man full of faith and the Holy Spirit),

Philip, Procorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas,

and Nicolas of Antioch

(an earlier convert to the Jewish faith).



Acts 6 (NLT)

7 So God's message continued to spread.



Acts 6 (NLT)

⁷ So God's message continued to spread.

The number of believers **greatly** increased in Jerusalem, and many of the Jewish **priests** were converted, too.



Psalm 133 (NLT)

How wonderful and pleasant it is
when brothers live together in harmony!

²For harmony is as precious as the anointing oil
that was poured over Aaron's head,
that ran down his beard
and onto the border of his robe.



A lighthouse on a rocky cliff overlooking a stormy sea with crashing waves.

What happened

Problem

Proposal

Propulsion



What happened

Why it worked



Why it worked

- The Apostles trusted the Holy Spirit
- The Holy Spirit was at work in them and among them and through them.



What happened

Why it worked

Would it work for us?

He in and among and through

A lighthouse on a rocky cliff with a beam of light shining across a stormy sea. The scene is dramatic, with dark, turbulent waves and a cloudy sky. The lighthouse is on the left, and its beam of light extends across the middle of the image. The text is overlaid in the center in a bold, yellow font.

**Would He work in and
among and through us?**

Philippians 2:13 (NLT)

**For God is working in you,
giving you the desire and the power
to do what pleases him.**



Galatians 5 (NLT)

**25 Since we are living by the Spirit,
let us follow the Spirit's leading
in every part of our lives.**



John 17:20 (NLT)

**I am praying
not only for these disciples
but also for all
who will ever believe in me
through their message.**




John 17:21 (NLT)

I pray that they will all be one,
just as you and I are one
—as you are in me, Father, and I am in you.

And may they be in us so that
the world will believe you sent me.



A lighthouse on a rocky island with a beam of light shining across a stormy sea.

When the Holy Spirit works,
differences that normally divide
become opportunities to display
the Gospel.

A lighthouse on a rocky cliff with a beam of light shining across a stormy sea. The scene is dark and moody, with a heavy sky and turbulent waves. The lighthouse is on the left, and its beam of light extends across the middle of the image. The text is centered in the middle of the image.

**Do you trust
the Reconciling Presence?**