

Acts 5-7 *Go, stand, and speak – and risk your life if necessary.***NOTES****Acts 5 *The Believer's Calling – fear God and Go, Stand, and Speak the truth!***

1. **Ananias and Sapphira sinned against God, and He struck them dead. (5:1-16)**
 - ✓ The couple's lie to the church was a lie against the Holy Spirit and God Himself.
 - ✓ The Bible says that as a result, "great fear" came upon the church and all that heard.
2. **In the face of enemy attacks, the apostles were told to *Go, Stand, and Speak*. (5:17-32)**
 - ✓ They immediately obeyed going early in the morning and taught the people.
 - ✓ Christ crucified was the center of their message and repentance and forgiveness of sins.
 - ✓ Once again, they said they were witnesses of these things... and so is the Holy Ghost.
3. **The apostles rejoiced to be counted worthy to suffer shame for Christ's name. (5:33-42)**
 - ✓ God used Gamaliel – a doctor of the law – to protect His faithful servants.
 - ✓ The apostles rejoiced to suffer for Christ and ceased not to witness and teach daily.

Acts 6 *The Believer's Priorities – prayer and the ministry of the word!*

1. **Seven men were chosen to allow the leaders to focus on the main things. (6:1-7)**
 - ✓ It was not good for them to leave the word of God and serve tables.
 - ✓ The men were to be of honest report and full of the Holy Ghost and wisdom.
 - ✓ The two priorities for the church leaders were prayer and the ministry of the word.
 - ✓ We see the first mention in Acts of someone from **Antioch, Syria** is in a POSITIVE context.
 - ✓ The Increase of the word of God caused disciples to multiply and many people got saved.
2. **Lost religious people disputed with Stephen and hired evil men to try to stop them. (6:8-15)**
 - ✓ We see the first mention in Acts of someone from **Alexandria, Egypt** in a NEGATIVE context.
 - ✓ They could not resist the wisdom and spirit by which Stephen spoke.
 - ✓ They said Stephen spoke blasphemous words against Moses and God.
 - ✓ They said Stephen spoke blasphemous words against this holy place and the law.
 - ✓ They said Stephen spoke about Jesus coming back to destroy this place.
 - ✓ They said Stephen spoke about Jesus changing the customs delivered by Moses.
 - ✓ This entire chapter is all about Stephen's testimony; his life and words pointed to Jesus Christ!

Acts 7 *Stephen's Last Words – you killed Christ and broke God's law!*

1. **Stephen preached the history of the nation of Israel from Abraham to Moses. (7:1-36)**
 - ✓ He reminded them of their history from Genesis to Exodus.
 - ✓ He focused on Moses and how he shewed them wonders and signs for forty years.
2. **Stephen connected Moses to Christ and reminded them of their fathers' sin against God. (7:37-43)**
 - ✓ Moses said that God would raise up a Prophet like unto Moses.
 - ✓ Stephen said "our fathers" received the "lively oracles" and would not obey Moses.
 - ✓ Stephen said "our fathers" turned back in their hearts and made idols to worship.

3. **Stephen said the Most High dwelleth not in temples made with hands. (7:44-50)**
 - ✓ God called Joshua “Jesus” and only mentioned David and Solomon in three verses.
 - ✓ Stephen quoted Isaiah 66 to get their focus away from the earth.
4. **Stephen accused the council men of breaking God’s law, and they stoned him. (7:51-60)**
 - ✓ He said they were resisting the Holy Ghost – and had not kept (broken) God’s law.
 - ✓ Stephen looked up to heaven and saw Jesus standing on the right hand of God.
 - ✓ Stephen became the first martyr for Jesus Christ in the Bible – he was willing to die for His sake!

Personal Applications

1. What did God speak to you about tonight?
2. What does God want you to do differently beginning tomorrow morning?
3. Have you taken ownership of the Gospel ministry of God’s church?
4. Are you ready to advance the Gospel for the glory of our great God?

Expositional Preaching from the Authorized Version of the Holy Bible

Current Book: The Acts of the Apostles

Quote from *Church History*:

"If the giving of the Law, while it was yet unbroken, was attended with such a display of awe-inspiring power, what will that day be when the Lord shall, with flaming fire, take vengeance on those who have willfully broken that Law?"
- Charles Spurgeon

(1834-1892, British Baptist preacher – called the "Prince of Preachers")

Scriptures for Today: Acts 5:1-42The Believers Calling – fear God and Go, Stand and Speak!**NOTES****PRINCIPLES****1. Ananias and Sapphira sinned *against God* and He struck them DEAD. 5:1-16**

- ✓ This couple's *lie* to the church was a lie *against the Holy Spirit* and *God Himself*...
Exodus 20:16; Joshua 7:20; Luke 15:18, 21; 1 Samuel 15:22; 1 John 3:4; Eph 4:30; 1 Thess 5:19
- ✓ The Bible says that as a result, "*great fear*" came upon *the church* and all that heard...
Luke 8:37; Revelation 11:11; Deuteronomy 13:11; 21:21; Numbers 16:34; Joshua 7:20-24; 22:20; 1 Samuel 6:19-21; 2 Kings 2:24; 1 Chronicles 13:12; Nehemiah 13; Psalm 119:120; Proverbs 16:6

NOTE Woe to the born-again Christian that has no fear of God!! The Bible says that one of the characteristics of lost people is that there is "no fear of God before their eyes" (Rom 3:18). As a result, they have pleasure in sin and do not even care. How foolish they are. The very next verse tells us what God has designed to wake them up to the knowledge of their sin – the 10 Commandments (Rom 3:19-20)! Beware, just because a person is saved, doesn't mean he is now sinless – oh no! When you get saved, you still have your wretched sin nature. But alas, "the fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge" (Prov 1:7) and "by the fear of the LORD, men depart from evil." (Prov 16:6) People often think the God of the OT is a God of wrath, but the God of the NT is a God of grace and mercy. The reality is that the God of the OT is the same as the God of the NT!! The Bible says He never changes! Jesus warned that He was to be feared because He had the power to cast the body and soul into hell (Matt 10:28). Paul said that he persuaded men because he knew the "terror of the Lord" (2 Cor 5:11). Beware and take heed to yourself. When people do not fear God or the consequences of their sins against Him, trouble and possibly even death will be coming to their house (1 Cor 11:30)!! Wake up church!! Be sure of this one thing – according to the Holy Spirit and the Bible He wrote – your sin will find you out!! (Num 32:23)

2. In the face of *enemy attacks*, the apostles were told to *Go, Stand* and SPEAK. 5:17-32

- ✓ They *immediately* obeyed going *early* in the morning and *taught*...
Matthew 4:22; Acts 8:26; 1 Samuel 15:22
- ✓ *Christ crucified* was the center of their message and *repentance* and *forgiveness of sins*...
Acts 5:28-31; Acts 1:8; 2:36; 4:10; 1 Corinthians 1:23; 2:2; Acts 17:30-31; 20:21; 26:20

- ✓ Once again, they said **they were witnesses** of these things...and **so is the Holy Ghost**...
John 16:8-12; Acts 1:8; 1 Thessalonians 5:19

NOTE The apostles said, "And we are his witnesses of these things; **and so is the Holy Ghost**, whom God hath given to them that obey him." We must always remember that the Holy Ghost is the power source within us to be a witness (Acts 1:8). However, we are reminded through this verse that God gives the Holy Spirit to all that obey Him and get saved. And, that He is a witness for Christ. That means, that when we do not open our mouth for our Lord Jesus Christ and be a witness for Him, we are actually "**quenching**" the Holy Spirit (1 Thess 5:19) who desires to **SPEAK** with our words, and we are "**grieving**" the Holy Spirit by sinning against Him instead!! Do you see that in verse 32? God has given you the Holy Spirit to be a guide and a teacher for certain. And, He has most assuredly given you the Holy Spirit so that you will **Go, Stand and Speak** on His behalf!! As Mark Cahill says, There is only one thing you can't do in heaven – witness to the lost who are going to perish! We know why we are here. The Lamb was slain for the lost and He deserves them! We must not sin against Him by keeping quiet any longer!

3. The apostles **rejoiced** to be counted **worthy** to **suffer** shame **for Christ's name**. 5:33-42

- ✓ God used Gamaliel – a doctor of the **law** – to **protect** His faithful servants...
Acts 5:34; 20:30; Matthew 16:18; Paul was taught by this man...Acts 22:3
- ✓ The apostles **rejoiced to suffer** for Christ and **ceased not** to witness and teach **daily**...
Matthew 5:11-12; Luke 21:12-19; 1 Corinthians 9:16-23; Philippians 2:12

NOTE What can we say to these things? We do not know what it is like to suffer for the name of our Lord Jesus Christ like these men and many others throughout Church History. We do not understand because we are Laodiceans. We think we are good. We think we are righteous. We think we are rich. We think we are increased with goods and have need of nothing. We know so much. We have so much. We have such liberties. We have such blessings. We have such technologies. We have such conditions ripe for sin and the pleasure of it. The reality is that we are wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked. (Rev 3:17) The enemy's goal is to get us to keep our mouth shut. He does not want us to speak in the name of Jesus. But, God forbid that we should keep silent and quench the Holy Ghost who is in us any longer!! We must **go**. We must **stand**. And, we must **speak**. No matter what their faces look like. No matter what the consequences may be. It is every believer's calling.

PRACTICES

1. What **truth from the Bible** has God made clear to you today that you **must believe**?

- ✓ Have you **been taught** something that goes contrary to what the **Bible clearly says**?
- ✓ Did God reveal a need for you to **speak** today's truth to others this week?

2. What has God revealed to you today about **you**?

- ✓ Have you **repented** of your sins and **put your faith** in the Lord Jesus Christ for salvation?
- ✓ What **one thing** does God want you to do differently beginning today?

** MARK YOUR CALENDAR – Upcoming Events **

1. **New Members Class** The first new Members class started today, **Sunday, 10/6 from 9-10am** (6 weeks)
2. **How to Study the Bible** **Wednesdays at 7-8pm** Children's ministry and youth group teaching time also during this time.
3. **Prayer Meeting** **Wednesdays at 6:30pm** We must be a house of prayer (Matthew 21:13)
4. **Open House** The month of October is a "**Grand Opening**" to the community – invite others to check us out for free. ☺

Expositional Preaching from the Authorized Version of the Holy Bible

Current Book: The Acts of the Apostles

Quote from Church History: "The First Commandment, 'Thou shalt have no other gods before Me': My friend, are you ready to be weighed against this Commandment? Have you fulfilled, or are you willing to fulfill all the requirements of this Law? Put it into one of the scales, and step into the other. Is your heart set upon God alone? Have you no other God? Do you love Him above father or mother, the wife of your bosom, your children, home or land, wealth or pleasure? If men were true to this commandment, obedience to the remaining nine would follow naturally. It is because they are unsound in this that they break the others."

- D.L. Moody

(1837-1899, American preacher, evangelist and writer)

Scriptures for Today: Acts 6:1-15

The Believer's Priorities – prayer and the ministry of the word!

NOTES

PRINCIPLES

1. Seven men were **chosen** to allow the leaders to **focus** on the **MAIN** things. 6:1-7

- ✓ It was **not good** for them to **leave the word of God** and serve tables...
Exodus 18:17-26; Deuteronomy 1:9-14; 1 Timothy 3:8-16; Philippians 1:1
- ✓ The men were to be of **honest report** and **full of the Holy Ghost and wisdom**...
Acts 1:21; 16:2; 22:12; Numbers 11:16; Deuteronomy 1:13; 2 Corinthians 8:16-24; 1 Timothy 3:7, 8, 10; Genesis 41:38, 39; Isaiah 11:2-5; Ephesians 5:18; James 3:17, 18
- ✓ The two **priorities** for the **church** leaders were **prayer** and **the ministry of the word**...
Prayer – Romans 1:9; Ephesians 1:15-17; 3:14-21; Philippians 1:4, 9-11; Colossians 1:9-13
The ministry of the Word – Acts 2:42; 20:19-31; Romans 12:6-8; 1 Corinthians 9:16; 2 Corinthians 5:17-21; Colossians 4:17; 1 Timothy 4:13-16; 2 Timothy 4:2
- ✓ We see the **first mention** in Acts of someone from **Antioch**, Syria and it is **positive**...
Acts 11:19, 20, 22, 26, 27; 13:1
- ✓ The **increase** of the **word of God** caused **disciples** to **multiply** and **many got saved**...
The word of God increased – Acts 12:24; 19:20; Colossians 1:6; 2 Timothy 2:9; John 12:42
Obedience to the faith – Romans 1:5; 16:26; 2 Thessalonians 1:8; Hebrews 5:9; 11:8

NOTE May we never, ever forget **the main things** – prayer and the ministry of the word of God!! Make no mistake about it; it was not good for the church leaders to be overwhelmed with the daily service and needs of the church. They needed to be praying and ministering the word of God to people – both lost and saved. When they did this, the word of God increased!! When the word of God increased, the number of disciples multiplied **greatly**. And, when the number of disciples multiplied greatly, a great company of religious **priests** got saved (and they were hard to reach)!! Keep the main things the main things in **your life**, and God will be able to use you to multiply disciples and lead many to the cross.

2. Lost **religious** people **DISPUTED** with Stephen and **hired evil men** to stop him. 6:8-15

- ✓ We see the **first mention** in Acts of someone from **Alexandria**, Egypt and it is **negative**... Acts 18:24 (false teaching from there); 27:6 (ship from there to Rome); 28:11
- ✓ They **could not resist** the **wisdom** and the **spirit** by which Stephen spoke... Matthew 7:29; John 7:46; Luke 4:22; 12:11-12; 21:15; Acts 4:13; Romans 8:9-11; Ephesians 1:17
- ✓ They said Stephen **spoke blasphemous** words **against Moses** and **God**... *Ten Commandments* – Exodus 20:1-21; Deuteronomy 18:15; Acts 3:22; 7:37
- ✓ They said Stephen **spoke blasphemous** words **against** this **holy place** and **the law**... Mark 14:58; Mark 10:17-27; Romans 3:19-20; 7:7; 1 John 3:4; James 2:8-12; Acts 7:53
- ✓ They said Stephen **spoke** about **Jesus coming back to destroy this place**... Matthew 13:39-43; 16:27; 25:31; 26:64; Acts 1:11; 2 Thess 1:7-10; Jude 14,15; Rev 1:7; 19:11-21
- ✓ They said Stephen **spoke** about **Jesus** changing **the customs delivered by Moses**... Acts 7:53; Galatians 3:1-29; 4:3-5; Hebrews 7:11-19; 8:6-13; 9:9-11; 10:1-18
- ✓ This entire chapter is all about Stephen's testimony; he **had not even spoken yet**... "full of faith and of the Holy Ghost" Acts 6:5, 8; Matthew 5:16; Acts 1:8; Philippians 1:27; Jude 3

NOTE Oh Christian!! How important it is for you to grasp this message today and to get Stephen's message inside of you! The lost, so-called "religious" people that were **opposed** to God, and **opposed** to His Son, and **opposed** to His gospel **were not able to resist** the **wisdom** and the **spirit** by which Stephen spoke!! That is because He was preaching **the same thing the Holy Spirit was preaching to them at the same time** according to John 16:8-11!! Jesus said that when the Holy Spirit came, He would reprove the world of **sin, righteousness and judgment to come!!** That was Stephen's message – **you have broken God's Law** and **you are guilty** of the blood of the Son of God and **judgment and eternal punishment in hell** is coming to you either **when you die** or **when Jesus comes back!! Repent and trust the Savior** before you die and it is too late!!! That was also the message of Enoch – the 7th from Adam! And the message of Jesus! And the message of John! And the message of Peter! And the message of James! And the message of Jude! And it was most assuredly the message of Paul! That is also the message of all those in the church that have been bought by the blood of Christ! And, it is to be **your message** and mine!!!

PRACTICES

1. **Unbeliever**, listen to the voice of your **conscience right now**. What did the **God** speak to you about through His **Holy Bible** that you **must believe** before you sleep tonight?
 - ✓ Have you **repented** of your sins and **put your faith** in the Lord Jesus Christ for salvation?
2. **Believer**, what did the **Holy Spirit of God** speak to you about through His **Holy Bible** today that you must **immediately obey** in your life?
 - ✓ What **one thing** does God want you to **do** or **repent of** right now?

** MARK YOUR CALENDAR – Upcoming Events **

1. **How to Study the Bible** Wednesdays at 7-8pm Children's ministry and youth group teaching time also during this time.
2. **Prayer Meeting** Wednesdays at 6:30pm We must be a house of prayer (Matthew 21:13)
3. **Open House** The month of October is a "**Grand Opening**" to the community – invite others to check us out for free. ☺

Expositional Preaching from the Authorized Version of the Holy Bible

Current Book: The Acts of the Apostles

Quote from Church History: "It is the ordinary method of the Spirit of God to convict sinners by the Law. It is this which being set home on the conscience, generally breaks the rocks in pieces. It is more especially this part of the Word of God which is quick and powerful, full of life and energy and sharper than any two-edged sword."

- John Wesley

(1703-1791, British open-air preacher and co-founder of Methodist movement)

"Did not Moses give you the law, and yet none of you keepeth the law? Why go ye about to kill me?" - Jesus

Scriptures for Today: Acts 7:1-60**Stephen's Last Words – you killed Christ and broke God's law!****NOTES****PRINCIPLES****1. Stephen preaches the *history* of the nation of Israel from Abraham to MOSES. 7:1-36**

- ✓ He reminded them of *their history* from Genesis to Exodus...
Genesis 12:1 through Exodus 3:9
- ✓ He focused on Moses and how he shewed them *wonders* and *signs* for forty years...
The word of God increased – Acts 12:24; 19:20; Colossians 1:6; 2 Timothy 2:9; John 12:42
Obedience to the faith – Romans 1:5; 16:26; 2 Thessalonians 1:8; Hebrews 5:9; 11:8

NOTE It is important to be reminded that these religious leaders were well-schooled in the Hebrew Scriptures (our Old Testament). This historical overview is the same thing that we would teach to our *children!* Many of the men on this "council" would have had Genesis and Exodus memorized. So why then would Stephen preach it? Upon further review, it is clear that he was setting them up for the big clincher at the end...he used the phrase "*our fathers*" ten times to show them that he had the same heritage. This enabled them to track with him and listen to him until the end when he turned toward their crimes against God and accused them of *betraying* and *murdering* their Messiah and ultimately breaking the Law they prided themselves on keeping – they had established their own righteousness (Rom 10:3)!

2. Stephen *connected Moses to Christ* and *reminded* them of their fathers' SIN. 7:37-43

- ✓ Moses said that God would raise up a *Prophet like unto Moses*...
Deuteronomy 18:15-19; Acts 3:22
- ✓ Stephen said "our fathers" *received* the "lively oracles" and would not obey Moses...
Exodus 32:1-8; 17-20; Deuteronomy 9:12-18; Nehemiah 9:18; Psalm 106:19-21
- ✓ Stephen said "our fathers" *turned back in their hearts* and made *idols* to worship...
Isaiah 2:8-9; 44:9-20; Hosea 9:1,10; Habakkuk 2:18-20; Amos 5:25-27; Hebrews 3:9,15-17

3. Stephen said **the Most High** dwelleth **not** in **temples** made with **HANDS**. 7:44-50

- ✓ God called **Joshua** "Jesus" and only mentioned David and Solomon in three verses...
Joshua 3:11-14; 18:1; Acts 13:22; Nehemiah 13:26
- ✓ Stephen quoted Isaiah 66 to get their **focus away from the earth**...
Isaiah 66:1-2

NOTE This is very important to get from this passage. Stephen was going somewhere with his preaching and he did not spend any time on David and Solomon – two of the greatest kings of Israel. That is huge!! His focus was the fact that these kings wanted to give God an earthly tabernacle or temple and it was that earthly temple that ultimately became the hang up for these self-righteous religious leaders!! The tabernacle was to be a "tabernacle of witness" (5 times in KJV including Acts 7) and a "tabernacle of testimony" (3 times in KJV) – meaning a constant reminder of God's holiness and their utter sinfulness!!

4. Stephen accused the **council** men of **breaking** God's **LAW** and they **stoned** him. 7:51-60

- ✓ He said they were **resisting the Holy Ghost** – and had **not kept (broken) God's law**...
Exodus 19:1-25; 20:1-26; Deuteronomy 33:2; Psalm 68:17; Galatians 3:19; 6:13; Hebrews 2:2; Romans 2:23-25; John 7:19; 8:9
- ✓ Stephen **looked up** to heaven and saw Jesus **standing** on the right hand of God...
Colossians 3:1-3

NOTE This accusation in verses 51 through 53 was where Stephen was headed from the beginning. These highly "spiritual", proud, arrogant, self-righteous, religious leaders actually believed in their mind and heart that they had **KEPT** the law which is impossible to keep! They had so deceived themselves into thinking they were good that they could not see that they had broken God's Law and betrayed and murdered the Lord Jesus Christ who was sent to save them!! People on this planet at this time in history are just as blinded to the reality of their sin and crimes against God as these men of the council. According to Paul, God has given us (saved Gentiles in the New Testament church) His Law (Ten Commandments) as an evangelistic tool to do the same thing Stephen did in Acts 7. The Law was designed by God to make sin exceedingly sinful and bring a sinner to the cross of the Lord Jesus Christ (Galatians 3:24)!! The Law is a schoolmaster to bring the lost to Christ that they might be saved from God's wrath in His eternal prison called hell. It makes God's justice and the cross make sense.

PRACTICES

1. **Unbeliever**, listen to the voice of your **conscience** **right now**. What did **God** speak to you about through His **Holy Bible** that you **must believe** before you sleep tonight?

- ✓ Have you **repented** of your sins and **put your faith** in the Lord Jesus Christ for salvation?

2. **Believer**, what did the **Holy Spirit of God** speak to you about through His **Holy Bible** today that you must **immediately obey** in your life?

- ✓ What **one thing** does God want you to **do** or **repent of** right now?

** MARK YOUR CALENDAR – Upcoming Events **

1. **How to Study the Bible** Wednesdays at 7-8pm Children's ministry and youth group teaching time also during this time.
2. **Prayer Meeting** Wednesdays at 6:30pm We must be a house of prayer (Matthew 21:13)
3. **Card Making Ministry** Ladies sign up at Welcome Center – Thursday, October 31st here at the church