

Summary

This sermon focuses on Stephen from Acts 6-8, using his life as an example of what it means to walk with God. Taylor emphasizes that when we walk with God, we begin to look like Him, act like Him, and move like Him. Stephen's story demonstrates how a life in step with the Spirit results in God flowing through us, even in the face of persecution and death. The message challenges believers to examine who they are walking with spiritually, as we become like those we surround ourselves with. Through Stephen's example of grace under pressure, forgiveness toward his persecutors, and unwavering focus on Jesus even unto death, we see a model of authentic Christian living that impacts others and advances God's kingdom.

Intro Prayer

Heavenly Father, as we gather together in this small group, we ask that You would open our hearts and minds to what You want to teach us today. Help us to be receptive to Your Spirit's leading and to learn from one another as we discuss Your Word. We pray that through our time together, You would draw us closer to You and help us to walk more faithfully in step with Your Spirit. Show us how to look more like Jesus, act more like Jesus, and move more like Jesus in our daily lives. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

Ice Breaker

Share about a time when you were influenced by friends to do something you normally wouldn't do - it can be something silly, adventurous, or even something you later regretted. What made it hard to say no?

Key Verses

1. Acts 1:8
2. Acts 6:8
3. Acts 6:15
4. Acts 7:55-60
5. John 10:10

Questions

1. What stands out to you most about Stephen's character and how he handled persecution?
2. Taylor said 'who you walk with is who you become.' How have you seen this principle play out in your own life, both positively and negatively?
3. Stephen's face glowed like an angel when he was before the council. What are some ways people today might 'look like God' when they walk closely with Him?
4. Even while being stoned to death, Stephen prayed for his persecutors' forgiveness, echoing Jesus' words on the cross. How can we develop this kind of Christ-like response to those who hurt us?

5. Stephen saw Jesus standing at the right hand of God even in his darkest moment. How can we maintain our focus on Jesus during difficult circumstances in our lives?
6. The sermon mentioned that Stephen moved with purpose, seeing people as 'precious' rather than 'projects.' How can we shift our perspective to see others the way God sees them?
7. What are some practical ways we can 'walk in step with the Spirit' in our daily routines and relationships?
8. Taylor's grandfather continued to talk about Jesus even while battling dementia. What does it look like to make Jesus the priority in our lives regardless of our circumstances?

Life Application

This week, identify one relationship or situation where you can intentionally 'walk with God' by responding more like Jesus. Whether it's showing forgiveness to someone who has hurt you, speaking truth in love to a difficult person, or simply being a light in a dark situation, commit to letting God flow through you in that specific area. Ask God daily to help you look like Him, act like Him, and move like Him in this situation.

Key Takeaways

1. When you walk with God, you start to look like God - people will notice something different about you
2. When you walk with God, you start to act like God - responding with grace, forgiveness, and love even in difficult circumstances
3. When you walk with God, you start to move like God - living with intentional purpose to share the gospel and see people as precious
4. Who you walk with is who you become - we must be intentional about surrounding ourselves with people who are walking with Jesus
5. Walking with God doesn't guarantee an easy life, but it does promise life to the full and the ability to impact others for His kingdom

Ending Prayer

Father God, thank You for the example of Stephen and how his life shows us what it looks like to walk closely with You. We confess that too often we try to live in our own strength rather than walking in step with Your Spirit. Help us to be people who look like Jesus, act like Jesus, and move like Jesus in every area of our lives. Give us courage to stand firm in our faith even when it's difficult, and help us to see every person we encounter as precious in Your sight. May Your light shine through us so brightly that others are drawn to You. Transform our hearts and make us more like Your Son each day. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.