



Sermon Notes

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Stephen: A Spirit-Filled Life, Death, and Legacy

Acts 6: 8–7:60 (pew Bible pgs. 914-916)

The commission was given by Jesus in Acts 1:8: *“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”*

The Spirit was sent by Jesus to empower that mission. The church was established by Jesus to carry out that mission. And now, by the time we come to the end of chapter 6, the first phase of that mission has been accomplished. In the span of a few years, Jerusalem has been turned upside down by that early church. The gospel is being proclaimed, the Word of God is increasing, and many thousands have become followers of Christ.

As far as we know, the gospel has not yet been preached outside Jerusalem. But that is about to change, and a key leader in that expansion is a man named Stephen. He is a Spirit-filled man, a man of faith, grace, and power. He is an effective servant within the church and a powerful witness outside the church. He is the first Christian martyr and the catalyst in advancing the gospel beyond the walls of Jerusalem and out into the gentile world.

Today’s passage shows us the final day in the life of Stephen — how he lived, what he said, how he died. Stephen’s death revealed him to be a man whose heart beat with Christ’s to the very last. Stephen shows us what a Spirit-filled life and death looks like, and the eternal impact that life and death can have.

In Colossians 2:20 we read, *“I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.”* Stephen shows us what it looks like to have “Christ ...in me” in the way we live, the message we proclaim, and the way we face death.

‘Christ in me’ is the way Stephen faithfully lived.

‘Christ over me’ is the message Stephen powerfully proclaimed.

‘Christ with me’ is the reason Stephen confidently faced death.



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Weekly Discipleship Guide

Use this guide to help you reflect upon and internalize today's passage and message! Using a journal or a notebook, follow the daily prompts below. We also use these guides to guide our discussions in our Life Groups each week as we seek to grow together in the Word!

Sunday

In your journal, reflect on today's sermon by answering the following:

I never knew:

I was challenged:

I was reminded:

I was convicted:

A question I still have:

A truth I could share:

Know

Monday

Spend some time today doing the following:

Read the sermon passage again.

Select a portion of this week's sermon passage to memorize this week.

Write your selected portion and read it to yourself at least 10 times throughout the day and meditate on that portion this week.

Know > Be

Tuesday

In your journal, spend some time writing about the following:

Read the sermon passage again.

Write a prayer of response, specifically guided by the passage.

(May include adoration, confession/repentance, thanksgiving, petition, etc...)

Continue to meditate on a memorize the selection you chose from yesterday.

Be

Wednesday

Think about this week's questions for group discussion:

Read Mark 13:11; Luke 12:11-12; and John 15:18-27. How do we see all of these prophetic messages from Jesus fulfilled in this account of Stephen?

How does this account of Stephen help us understand persecution and opposition to the gospel from an eternal perspective?

What connection does our ordinary, every day walk with Christ have with persecution that we are sure to encounter because of that walk? Can you say that your walk right now is preparing you for those situations?

Be > Do

Thursday

In your journal, spend some time considering the following:

What insights have you gained while internalizing this week's passage?

How specifically will you seek to apply its truths in your home/workplace/life in general?

Do

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Westwood Staff

Gerald Hodges: Lead Pastor
Jonathan Taylor: Associate Pastor
Jim Fulp: Counseling Pastor
Jason Engle: Pastor of Students & Discipleship
Katie Austin: Children's Ministry Coordinator

Contact Us

336.599.1982
westwoodroxboro@gmail.com
www.westwoodfamily.org

Upcoming Events

February 3 - CentriKid Info Meeting
February 9 - Sportsman's Banquet
March 20 - Church Conference
April 6 - One Day with God
April 13 - Mom 2 Mom Spring Sale
April 27 - Family Discipleship Summit

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