

ACTS

CHAPTER 7:44-50

MEDIA REFERENCE NUMBER SMX 171

TITLE:

THE WITNESSING CHURCH - Part 5 of 7

- The Book of Acts is better entitled “Acts of the Holy Spirit- through His Church” This Book is the Operating By-Laws of God’s Church in the earth and How it functions.
- The Church of Jesus Christ was engineered to run on **Divine power** and a church that is not indwelt and empowered by the Holy Spirit is not a church at all, but a social gathering...

A DRY GATHERING AT THAT

Ezekiel 37:1-14

Dem’ Bones

Ezekiel 37:7

So I prophesied as I was commanded; and as I prophesied, there was a noise, and suddenly a rattling; and the bones came together, bone to bone. :8 Indeed, as I looked, the sinews and the flesh came upon them, and the skin covered them over; but there was no **breath** (*ruwach - roo'-akh, spirit*) in them.

Acts 1:4-5

And being assembled together with them, He commanded them not to depart from Jerusalem, **but to wait for the Promise of the Father**, "which," He said, "you have heard from Me; :5 "for John truly baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now."

YOU SEE....They were already born again believers

John 20:21-22

Jesus said to them again, "Peace to you! As the Father has sent Me, I also send you." :22 And when He had said this, He breathed on them, and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit Came to live Inside Them... **Once and for All. They Had The Holy Spirit**

But it wasn't until Acts 2 (The Day of Pentecost, 50 days of waiting later) That *The Holy Spirit had Them*, Empowering them, Anointing Them & Guiding Them in Ministry.

Zechariah 4:6 for sure !!!

THE THEME of THE BOOK BEING

Acts 1:8

“But you shall receive **power** when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and “**you shall be witnesses to Me**” in **Jerusalem**, and in all **Judea** and **Samaria**, and to the **end of the earth**.”

This Week Has Been a Week of

- *Rejoicing* as the team arrived home from *sharing Jesus in Russia*
- *Prayer* as doors are opening to other parts of the world to *share Jesus*
- *Awe* as God used this week, this fellowship in Austria to *share Jesus*.

The Good News of Jesus Christ is not an Option,

It is a choice, your choice... but it's not an option. Jesus says...

John 6:44

"No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him;

Hebrews 4:12

For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

RECAP Stephens Ministry... 6:8 - 7:1 -- Stephen was being accused of

“Moses-Slamming & Temple-Bashing”

when in reality, they had been the ones

A.) Responding *to What God Has Given* vv. 44-45

The Tabernacle of Witness and *The Tent of Meeting* are one and the same. It was a mock-up, a copy of *what's in Heaven*.

In Exodus 25

God gave His Plans to **Moses**... to give to the **Builders**

- we have the Holy Spirit
- we have the Bible
- we have one another
- we have direct access to God
- we have God's favor

You may not be a Christian This Morning, but you're benefitting from the God of Christianity.

- Power
- promotion
- Toys
- Authority

It is the God of Heaven who has given you the ability to make it

Matthew 25:14-29

The Parable of the Talents

Little or Much... God requires a profit from His investment

Luke 12:48

For everyone to whom much is given, from him much will be required;

Verse 45

the dangers of Privilege

Continuous Disobedience & Continuous are a flammable combination

- According to the pattern *which he saw... When God met with Moses on the mountain, He gave him the TEN COMMANDMENTS on two tablets of stone, written by the way, by God Himself...*
- The Tabernacle of Witness *had within it the Ark of the Covenant. From the outside it looked rather plain, but once inside, it was the most beautiful tent you've ever seen.*
- The Only Approval of "Temple Building" by God was the portable tabernacle- a tent ! *It appears that God is in to camping and Barbequing in the middle for sacrifice... He's Portable*

B.) Rejoicing in What God has Given

vv. 46

Jesus is the Great High Priest *who ministers in heaven for us.*

Verse 46

Favor GRK charis (khar'-ece) grace, to be made acceptable, or pleasurable to have divine influence upon the heart, **which is reflected in the life; including gratitude)**

Hebrews 10:11-13

And every priest stands ministering daily and offering repeatedly the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins. :12 But this Man, (Christ Jesus) after He had ***offered one sacrifice*** for sins forever, sat down at the right hand of God, :13 from that time waiting till His enemies are made His footstool. :14 ***For by one offering*** He has perfected forever those who are being sanctified or (being born again).

Hebrews 9:11-12

But Christ came as High Priest of the good things to come, with the greater and more perfect tabernacle not made with hands, that is, not of this creation. :12 Not with the blood of goats and calves, but with His own blood He entered the Most Holy Place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption.

Hebrews 9:24-25

For Christ has not entered the holy places made with hands, which are copies of the true, but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us; :25 not that He should offer Himself often, as the high priest enters the Most Holy Place every year with blood of another

Rejoicing in What He Has Done!

He Has Created us

Ephesians 2:10 For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.

He has Convicted us

Acts 2:37 Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Men and brethren, what shall we do?"

He has Forgiven us

Ephesians 4:32 Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ, God forgave you.

He has Saved us

Ephesians 2:8 For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God,

He has Accepted us

Ephesians 1:6 to the praise of the glory of His grace, by which He has made us accepted in the Beloved.

He has Delivered us

Colossians 1:13 He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love,

He has Justified us

Romans 3:24 being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus,

He has Glorified us

1 Corinthians 3:16 Do you not know that you are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?
&

Isaiah 66:1-2 Thus says the LORD: "Heaven is My throne, and earth is My footstool. Where is the house that you will build Me? And where is the place of My rest? :2 For all those things My hand has made, and all those things exist," says the LORD. *"But on this one will I look: on him who is poor and of a contrite spirit, and who trembles at My word.*

C.) Resting *in What God Has Given* vv. 47-50

David need not build me a house, *"I will build David a house through Solomon (From his posterity, his descendants) would come the Messiah whose house/throne would be forever.*

I like this... It took years to build it, *God never asked for it, He wasn't homeless or lonely.*

God was in no hurry to move in - There's No Escrow Pressure

Philippians 3:20

For our citizenship (politeuma: pol-it'-yoo-mah, **politics** or community) **is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ,**

Republican Democrat Independent MONARCHIST

Hebrews 9:11

But Christ came as High Priest of the good things to come, with the greater and more perfect tabernacle not made with hands, that is, not of this creation.

Verse 48

is in opposition to the temple being built at all

“Dwell” or “Live” to be housed permanently, or to be kept. “Localized”

When You put God in a Temple, a Church, or a Denomination You've just boxed Him in...
You've taken Him out of the heavens and put him in a death-trap. They had made Him a Jewish God who lived in a Jewish Temple rather than being the The God of All.

They Believed that they had the “Corner Market” on God

About 100 years earlier Sennacherib's Army delivered Jerusalem and ever since then the people believed that Jerusalem was invincible because it had “the Temple”

Jerusalem is the most important city on Earth
Archaeologically, Economically, Spiritually, Politically

The World west of Jerusalem, reads & writes towards Jerusalem
The World right of Jerusalem, reads & writes towards Jerusalem.

The Most Important Meetings with God Had taken place outside of Temples & Structures...
Abraham... **Outside**, Joseph... **Outside**, Moses... **Outside**... *all in lost, Pagan Lands*

*It's True, **The Most High does not dwell in temples made with hands...** But He does dwell in temples that are not made by human hands - Us !!!*

1 Kings 8:26-27 & 30

AT THE DEDICATION OF THE TEMPLE

"And now I pray, O God of Israel, let Your word come true, which You have spoken to Your servant David my father. :27 "But will God indeed dwell on the earth? Behold, heaven and the heaven of heavens cannot contain You. How much less this temple which I have built!..... :30 "...when they pray toward this place. Hear in heaven Your dwelling place; and when You hear, forgive.

Verse 49

Quoting Isaiah 66:1

Acts 17:24

"God, who made the world and everything in it, since He is Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in temples made with hands.

Psalm 139:7-9

Where can I go from Your Spirit? Or where can I flee from Your presence? :8 If I ascend into heaven, You are there; if I make my bed in hell, behold, You are there. :9 If I take the wings of the morning and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea, :10 Even there Your hand shall lead me, and Your right hand shall hold me.

The Sanhedrin will (NEXT WEEK) react violently to this message because every bit of it was true and convicting...

A WITNESING CHURCH is a place that displays its love for God.

we may worship without instruments or with choirs, we may worship Him with organs or pianos or with guitars and drums

... there are no limits to what you use... but how you use it...

John 4:21-24

the hour is coming when you will neither on this mountain, nor in Jerusalem, worship the Father..... "But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him. :24 "God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth."

God is the Host, He invites us to "Enter into His Presence"

GIVE IT OUT

The Mother Red Robin in our yard... the mother regurgitates, barfs right into their mouths....giving them life

We need to regurgitate what we have

the thought of 'being temples'

2 Corinthians 6:16

... For you are the temple of the living God. As God has said: "I will dwell in them and walk among them. I will be their God, and they shall be My people."

Jeremiah 31:33

...I will put My law in their minds, and write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people.

Ezekiel 36:26-27

"I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will take the heart of stone out of you and give you a heart of flesh. :27 "I will put My Spirit within you (the Temple) and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will keep My judgments and do them.