

# ACTS

## CHAPTER 7:51-60

MEDIA REFERENCE NUMBER SMX 172

TITLE:

### THE WITNESSING CHURCH - Part 6

THEME:

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**.”

There's a Story of an Old Scottish Shepherd *who had spent his life tending sheep and when time came for him to die... A Pastor came to him and asked "Have you tended these sheep long..." 'All my life' he replied. So the Pastor asked again, "have you ever seen a cloud race toward you when you were down in that valley...? 'All my life' was his reply... "were you ever afraid of those shadows... Afraid of a shadow... never, and nor am I now...Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.*

For the Christian, death is a shadow that He passes by

John 11:25

Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live...."

John 6:63

"It is the Holy Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing. The words that I speak to you are spirit, and they are life.

How do you come to Church?  
to receive, to give, to watch, to do time?

When we approach a message, any message • **what** are we expecting, • **what** are we looking for... We often judge messages based upon how often we laugh, or how moving, or serious, it was. was it entertaining, or convicting... ?

### How Did Jesus Teach

**laughed**, (Zacchaeus' house & stones crying out) **sad** (rich young ruler), **moving**, (the view of Jerusalem) **serious**, (all of you will be offended) **convicting** (death to self-life)... **Jesus didn't have the time nor the Spirit to be entertaining while men's souls were perishing (never)**

Matthew 7:28-29

so, when Jesus had ended he's message, the people were astonished at His teaching, :29 for He taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes (or Professional Pulpiteers.)

## Stephen Had *that* spirit when Preaching, that "Holy Spirit"

Verse 51-53

The abrupt change in Stephen's "tempo & protocol" suggests that the Sanhedrin had had its fill...

### 1.) *Death ! The Christian's Coronation* vv. 54-56

Verse 54

**Cut**  
to Cut to the quick, to hit the nerve, a knee-jerk reaction  
&  
**gnashed**  
to grate the teeth or grind *painfully* the jaw

*Isaiah 55:11*

Remember... He's Under the Influence...  
of the Holy Spirit.

You May Criticize the Bible and say it's Nothing  
but, the truth is...

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. *Hebrews 4:12*

And Your Very Reaction Proves it's Case... The Truth of the Matter is the  
Bible Criticizes you.

Verse 55

Have You Ever Put Gasoline on a Fire

## Mt. Shasta

The Bible says He sits Now... "when He had by Himself purged our sins, sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high,"

- Why is He standing ?

*Stephen's about ready to cross the finish line.*

- A Track Meet

When the final lap is on and the race is at its end the crowd stands out of excitement, out of appreciation, out of association

- Jesus Stands to Encourage,

to cheer on, to associate with His Brethren...  
He can say, Been there, Done that.

2 Peter 1:11

for so an entrance will be supplied to you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

**Hey Peter !!! Open the Gates... Both of Em' ...  
All the Way Open**

Verse 56

Stephen, *Being Careful to be Politically Correct....says*

**“Look! I see the heavens (God’s Dwelling) opened  
and “the Son of Man” (the Messiah of Mankind)  
standing (as the witness)  
at the right hand of God (He has all authority)**

## 2.) **Death ! *The World’s Condemnation* vv. 57-58**

Verse 57

There’s another view for “Why” Jesus stood up..

**It’s the Protocol in Jewish Court** to have the person who is to bring charges against another to have them stand up to deliver the testimony...**It’s the Posture of an Eyewitness.**

Matthew 10:32

**"Therefore whoever confesses Me before men, him I will also  
confess (this one whom you’ve given me) before My Father who is in heaven.**

## Signifying an Impending Judgment or Ruling

### *John 3:17-19 (16)*

For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved. **:18** He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. **:19** And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil..... **John 3:16** *For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.*

Verse 58

They laid down their clothes so that they might better throw stones.

### “Let Him Throw the First Stone”

#### *John 8:7*

... Jesus standing up and said to them, "He who is without sin among you, let him throw a stone at her first."  
(*Leviticus 24, Deuteronomy 17,*)

What was it that Saul saw... a man totally committed.

### 3.) *Death! The Christian's Liberation* vv. 59-60

Up until now the Gospel was ordained to its "Jerusalem Post" The Good News had first come to Israel. Stephen's death meant liberation *for* himself and *to* the church.

#1 *They had sinned against God the Father,*  
*when they killed John The Baptist*

#2 *They had sinned against God the Son,*  
*when they killed Jesus the Messiah*

#3 *They had sinned against God the Holy Spirit,*  
*when they killed Stephen the witness.*

#### **Deuteronomy 19:15**

**"... by the mouth of two or three witnesses the matter shall be established.**

They Had Committed The Unforgivable, Unpardonable Sin

#3 The "Resisting" The Holy Spirit was displayed  
*in the murder of Stephen.*

**Matthew 12:31-32**

"Therefore I say to you, every sin and blasphemy will be forgiven men, **but the blasphemy against the Spirit will not be forgiven men.** :32 "Anyone who speaks a word against the Son of Man, it will be forgiven him; **but whoever speaks against the Holy Spirit**, it will not be forgiven him, either in this age or in the age to come.

- He Can Be Disgusted *Ephesians 4:30 "grieve not"*
- He Can Be Lied To *Acts 5:3-4 "lied unto God"*
- He Can Be Resisted... *But Only for So Long*

**John 16:8-11**

"And when The Holy Spirit has come, (1) He will convict the world of sin, and (2) of righteousness, and (3) of judgment...."of sin, (1) because they do not believe in Me; :10 "of righteousness, (2) because I go to My Father and you see Me no more; :11 (3)"of judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged.

- He Can Be Made Angry...

Psalm 106:32-33

By the waters of Meribah they **angered the LORD**, and trouble came to Moses because of them; :33 for they rebelled against the **Spirit of God**,

Verse 60

**"Lord, do not charge them with this sin"**

**The Heart of the Evangelist Comes Out**

**Matthew 11:16-17**

"But to what shall I liken this generation? It is like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling to their companions, :17 "and saying: `We played the flute for you, and you did not dance; we mourned to *and* you, but you did not weep.'

The word "Charge" means to "stand against", appoint a verdict

Stephen took on the characteristics of Jesus... You become like the ones you hang out with

**Like Sinner, Like Savior**

**Hebrews 6:12**

**...but imitate those who through faith and patience inherit the promises.**

**Ezekiel 33:11**

Say to them, `As surely as I live, declares the Sovereign LORD, I take no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but rather that they turn from their ways and live. Turn! Turn from your evil ways! **Why** will you die, O house of Israel?

# Formulate Your very Best Argument

- Why won't you become a Christian?
- Why won't you believe?
- Why do you believe in what you do believe?

What does your response have to do with Jesus???

Philippians 1:21 For to me, to live is Christ, and to die is gain.

**2 Corinthians 5:8**

**We are confident, yes, well pleased rather to be absent from the body and to be present with the Lord.**

**1 Corinthians 15:51-52**

**Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed -- :52 in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.**

## Jesus Said to the Thief... "Today" *Luke 23*

You Can make a reservation - The Choice is yours,  
Heaven or Hell. Light or Darkness, Smoking or Non-Smoking

### Smoking Section;

**Jude 1:13**

Says there are reserved seats in hell.... those going there are like "wandering stars for whom is *reserved* the blackness of darkness forever."

### Non-Smoking Section;

**1 Peter 1:4**

We have an inheritance, incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, *reserved* in heaven for you,

Back To...

Verse 51-53

How's Your Neck (is it a little stiff), How're your Ears (a little dull) Loosen Up... Stretch out...

It's Been Said That.....

At The Heart of Every Problem - is the Problem of the Heart

**2 Corinthians 6:2**

...." Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.

Romans 10:9

...if you confess with your mouth *the Lord Jesus* and believe in your heart *that God has raised Him from the dead*, you will be saved.

Personally, Individually, You have heard the message...

I want to ask you..... • will Jesus Christ stand up to receive you?

• will Jesus Christ stand up to Judge you?

Stephen was stoned to death... Yet his ministry wasn't heavy...

Matthew 11:28

"Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. :29 "Take **My yoke** upon you and **learn from Me**, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.

:30 "**For My yoke is easy and My burden is light.**"

The Yoke Was Custom Made & fitted for each animal.

The owner would often give the carpenter an order based on the particular attitude of the animal.

Accept Him Now,  
Get Baptized This Afternoon,  
Have Reservations in Heaven !