

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?