

THE WEEKEND OF SEPTEMBER 9-10, 2017

BIBLICAL FOUNDATIONS CLASS

6 WEEKS BEGINNING
SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 24TH
8:30 AM AT THE CATHEDRAL

RSVP ON THE EVENTS PAGE @COP.CHURCH

SPEAKERS:
JOHN STRAWDER
FRED OTIS AMEY
FROM FELLOWSHIP FOR CHRISTIAN ATHLETES
MUSIC ARTIST:
NOBIGDYL

DON'T DENY

YOUTH CONFERENCE

REVOJUTION YOUTH MINISTRY

RSVP ON THE EVENTS PAGE @COP.CHURCH

On your mark... get set...

IT'S TIME AGAIN TO SIGN UP FOR THE CIM AND TO START TRAINING FOR TEAM SERVE SACRAMENTO

CALIFORNIA INTERNATIONAL MARATHON

To sign up for the run go to our **EVENTS Page @cop.church** or meet us in the Fellowship Hall

KEY

ACTIVATE

The Story Continues...

SERIES

WEEKEND CELEBRATIONS

SATURDAYS 5PM
SUNDAYS 8:30AM / 10:30AM / 12:30PM

MIDWEEK BIBLE STUDIES

WEDNESDAYS 12NOON AND 7PM AT THE CATHEDRAL
THURSDAYS 12NOON AT THE POWER CENTER

CENTERED LIFE TV BROADCASTS

FRIDAYS AT 9AM / WEDNESDAYS AND SATURDAYS AT 8PM
COMCAST CHANNEL 20 / SUREWEST CHANNEL 19

THE CATHEDRAL
2223 Capitol Avenue
Sacramento, CA 95816

THE POWER CENTER
10455 Investment Circle
Rancho Cordova, CA 95670

PAMELA B. TRIPETTE BLDG
Children and Youth Complex

MAILING ADDRESS
Administration Office
2150 Capitol Avenue
Sacramento, CA 95816

(916) 441-3305

COP.CHURCH

FOLLOW US ONLINE
@CENTEROF PRAISE

INTRODUCTION

Acts 6-7 give the account of the first Christian martyr named Stephen after he spoke before the Council (Jewish religious authorities) and other non-believing Jews. Our objective is to observe how the ACTivation of the Holy Spirit empowered Stephen's testimony and to understand how it relates to our individual callings and ACTivation today.

ACTivated TO SERVE

As we saw previously with the Apostle Peter, the ACTivation of the Holy Spirit empowered Stephen to not only perform *"great wonders and signs among the people."*, it also enabled him to speak with tremendous **boldness** and insight regarding the scriptures. Those who opposed Stephen had no other recourse than to fabricate false accusations against him because, *"they were unable to cope with the wisdom and the Spirit with which he was speaking."* (Acts 6:10-14). This too is an outcome of the in-filling of the Holy Spirit for the believer to seek today.

ACTivated TO TESTIFY

Taking a stand against his primarily Jewish accusers, Stephen said nothing about **himself**. He instead delivers a very targeted and skillful summary of Hebrew history culminating in a shift from Stephen defending himself as the accused, to being a Holy Spirit empowered **prosecutor** presenting charges against the unbelieving crowd.

THE CASE AGAINST THE CROWD

Acts 7:2-8	Abraham: Promise & Covenant
Acts 7:9-19	Joseph: Preservation & Increase
Acts 7:20-44	Moses: Deliverance & Denial
Acts 7:45	Joshua: Possession of the Land
Acts 7:45-46	David: Possession & Desire
Acts 7:47-50	Solomon: Realization & Reality
Acts 7:51-53	PRESENT CROWD: ACCUSATION of resistance, betrayal & murder

THE ULTIMATE ACTivation

Why did the Holy Spirit deliver these specific words through Stephen, which lead to death by stoning?

1. They needed tough **love**. Hardened hearts have limited receptivity.
2. The works themselves confirmed Stephens faith. There was no need to **defend** himself against false accusations. (Jn. 10:37-38)
3. The crowd needed truth to **convict** their hearts. (Jn. 16:8)
3. The **joy** of persecution and the ovation of Christ. (Rom. 5:3-5, Rev. 2:9-11, 6:9-11)

There is not one detail of the story of Stephen that took place out of God's will. Every word he spoke and every action taken was done *"full of grace and power"* (Acts 6:8).

This truth shouldn't cause despair for the ACTivated believer, but it should serve to deepen our **faith** and understanding of the eternal victory belonging to the church that far outweighs the momentary trials of this natural life. The life view of a Spirit-filled disciple is not limited to the dash (-) between birth and death. It extends to the beauty of an eternal life with **unending** joy and peace in the presence of the Lord.

FactorPoints

He's Here — WORSHIP: God is worthy of our highest praise and adoration because the persecution of the world is always a victory for the believer.

He Knows — LEARN: Review the notes for this teaching as well and previous chapters in Acts and notice how the apostles perceived persecution. Continue to listen to the ACTivate Teaching Series Audio files available on our COP Mobile app.

He's Able — SERVE: As opportunities arise, give testimony of the faithfulness of the Lord to give Jesus as the One and Only Savior of the world.

WEEK 5 READING: ACTS 7

Fill in notes also available on the COP mobile app or @COP.church