



# COURAGEOUS FAITH

THE BOOK OF ACTS

**Bible study for the week starting September 18, 2022**

## SHARE

1. In the face of persecution and death, Stephen chose to forgive. How has forgiveness shaped your life? Relationships? Who has forgiven you? Who have you forgiven? Who has withheld forgiveness? Who have you withheld forgiveness from?

## READ/STUDY/DISCUSS

1. Read **Acts 7:54-8:1a**.
2. Why did they gnash their teeth? What were they mad about? (read v. 51-53 for reminder)
  - a. Does God's word bring you comfort or confrontation more often?
  - b. When confronted: Do you respond with repentance or rejection? When?
3. Think about what Stephen saw when he was nearing his death? (v.55-56) Have you ever heard of other near death experiences and visions? What do you think about those?
  - a. What do you think? Is Jesus standing in Judgement or Respect? Both?
4. Read **Luke 23:32-46**- compare and contrast the death of Jesus and Stephen's death.
5. What would you want your last words to be? **Read Luke 17:1-6**

## PRAY

6. Pray: That our lives, even up to our death reflect Jesus. Pray for forgiveness to reign in our hearts. Pray for the persecuted church around the world. Look up [persecution.com](http://persecution.com) for present info.



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## Courageous Faith: FORGIVENESS

Acts 7:54-8:1a

September 18, 2022 – Pastor Ben Schrank

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- 1) God's word always COMFORTS or CONFRONTS.

Two ways to respond when confronted with God's Word

-REPENTANCE.

-REJECTION.

- 2) When we stand on truth, we DON'T STAND ALONE.

- 3) Let forgiveness be your FINAL WORD.

Forgiveness - *aphiemi* - "LET IT GO"

THE APOSTLE PAUL ENTERED HEAVEN TO THE CHEERS  
OF THOSE HE MARTYRED.

THAT IS HOW THE GOSPEL WORKS.

*For next week, read Acts 8:1b-4*