



# The Book of Acts: *Holy Spirit Adventures*

**Passage: Acts 6-7**

**The Book of Acts - A call to see the Spirit move again and again in every generation**

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## Introduction

Pastor Jon said "Can God take our pain and injustice and use it to spread the Good News? Oh yes!"? How do you respond to difficulties, especially those rising out of pushback to your faith? Are you able to trust God for something good to come out of your troubles?

Enjoy the Table Talk video with Pastor Jon [here](#).

## Unpacking the Sermon

**1. Acts 6:7 "So the word of God spread... Stephen, a man full of God's grace and power, did great wonders and miraculous signs among the people."**

With the instituting of the deacons, God's miraculous work continued. What dynamics among the Christians contributed to this? Stephen stood out. What about Stephen contributed to God's work through him?

**2, Acts 6:9-7:1 "Opposition arose, however..."**

Some Grecian Jews began to argue with Stephen but "could not stand up against his wisdom or the Spirit" and plotted against him. Pastor Jon points out that, "The irony is that Stephen was giving his ministry life to widows of the same background as them." How is evil influencing their angry actions?

**3. AC 7:2 "To this he replied: "Brothers and fathers, listen to me! The God of glory appeared to our father Abraham..."**

So Stephen speaks to the Sanhedrin, the same group of austere officials that Jesus as well as Peter and John faced. Pastor Jon notes, "for over 53 verses, Stephen walks through the Holy history of their shared Jewish faith." They had that in common but Stephen boldly confronts their murder of Jesus and refusal to believe in Jesus. As you look over this long speech, what stands out to you? What can we learn from the content and boldness of Stephen's words?

#### **4. Acts 7:60 Stephen “cried out, “Lord, do not hold this sin against them...”**

Stephen was stoned at the hands of a crazed mob. Yet he was helped by a vision of Jesus “standing at the right hand of God.” He was being brutally murdered yet God was with him and helping him. God gave him very special grace. Discuss how Stephen follows Jesus’ example of Luke 23:34-46. In what ways should Stephen’s example inspire us?

#### **APPLICATION – For Discussion**

Stephen had met Jesus. Jesus gave him forgiveness and a new life. He had the Holy Spirit within him. Stephen looked forward to a Guaranteed Resurrection, and so he lived a life of faithfulness.

Pastor Jon said, “Helper of widows, loving those that did not like him within the church and without. Speaking the truth about Jesus, using power gifts. Could he not be what the church might need to be like in this post-Christian moment?” Is the Holy Spirit speaking to some of you to walk in the way of Stephen?

How are you being stirred to grow and change by what you’ve learned in this passage?

**Prayer:** Dear Father in Heaven, thank you that you are with us in these scary times. Help us to trust you for strength as we serve and lead. Please give us grace and wisdom to live each day for you and to be ready to give ourselves to others. Amen

Have questions about the sermon? Email us: [groups@sanctuschurch.com](mailto:groups@sanctuschurch.com)