

Acts  
Whose Life is it Anyway?  
June 23, 2024

**Acts 6:8-15** Now Stephen, a man full of God’s grace and power, performed great wonders and signs among the people. Opposition arose, however, from members of the Synagogue of the Freedmen (as it was called)—Jews of Cyrene and Alexandria as well as the provinces of Cilicia and Asia—who began to argue with Stephen. But they could not stand up against the wisdom the Spirit gave him as he spoke. Then they secretly persuaded some men to say, “We have heard Stephen speak blasphemous words against Moses and against God.” So they stirred up the people and the elders and the teachers of the law. They seized Stephen and brought him before the Sanhedrin. They produced false witnesses, who testified, “This fellow never stops speaking against this holy place and against the law. For we have heard him say that this Jesus of Nazareth will destroy this place and change the customs Moses handed down to us.” All who were sitting in the Sanhedrin looked intently at Stephen, and they saw that his face was like the face of an angel.

**Acts 7:51:54** “You stiff-necked people! Your hearts and ears are still uncircumcised. You are just like your ancestors: You always resist the Holy Spirit! Was there ever a prophet your ancestors did not persecute? They even killed those who predicted the coming of the Righteous One. And now you have betrayed and murdered him— you who have received the law that was given through angels but have not obeyed it.” When the members of the Sanhedrin heard this, they were furious and gnashed their teeth at him.

5 Signs I’m a Pharisee:

1. My relationship with Jesus only exists on \_\_\_\_\_
2. I \_\_\_\_\_ the working of the Holy Spirit  
**1 Thessalonians 5:19** Do not quench the Spirit.
3. My \_\_\_\_\_ are skeptical, critical, and harsh  
**Proverbs 12:18** The words of the reckless pierce like swords, but the tongue of the wise brings healing.
4. I disobey the \_\_\_\_\_
4. Anger, bitterness, and rage consume my \_\_\_\_\_

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**Ecclesiastes 7:9** Do not be quickly provoked in your spirit, for anger resides in the lap of fools.

**Acts 7:55-60** But Stephen, full of the Holy Spirit, looked up to heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. "Look," he said, "I see heaven open and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God." At this they covered their ears and, yelling at the top of their voices, they all rushed at him, dragged him out of the city and began to stone him. Meanwhile, the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul. While they were stoning him, Stephen prayed, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." Then he fell on his knees and cried out, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." When he had said this, he fell asleep.

Evidence my Life is Surrendered:

**Galatians 2:20** I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

1. I have an unshakable \_\_\_\_\_ for Jesus

**Romans 1:16** For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes: first to the Jew, then to the Gentile.

2. I am full of the \_\_\_\_\_
3. I walk with a \_\_\_\_\_ confidence in my identity
4. I live \_\_\_\_\_ to fear, pride, and insecurity

**1 Corinthians 7:23** God paid a high price for you, so don't be enslaved by the world.

5. I am able to \_\_\_\_\_ anyone

**Matthew 18:21-22** Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, "Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother or sister who sins against me? Up to seven times?" Jesus answered, "I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times."

**Walk Away:** Jesus \_\_\_\_\_ when we make a stand for him.

**Acts 7:56** "I see heaven open and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God."

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