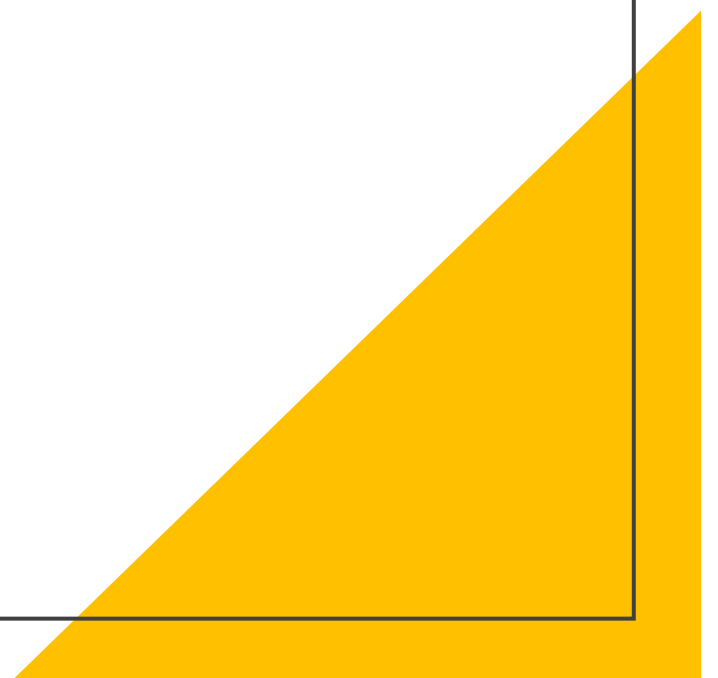


When Trouble Comes -- Lessons from Stephen

Acts: The Holy Spirit at Work

June 21, 2023



When Trouble Comes

LESSON 1: WHAT TO DO WHEN CONFLICT COMES

Acts 6:1–4 (NIV) — 1 In those days when the number of disciples was increasing, the Grecian Jews among them complained against the Hebraic Jews because their widows were being overlooked in the daily distribution of food. 2 So the Twelve gathered all the disciples together and said, “It would not be right for us to neglect the ministry of the word of God in order to wait on tables. 3 Brothers, choose seven men from among you who are known to be full of the Spirit and wisdom. We will turn this responsibility over to them 4 and will give our attention to prayer and the ministry of the word.”

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Acts 6:5–7 (NIV)-- 5 This proposal pleased the whole group. They chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit; also Philip, Procorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolas from Antioch, a convert to Judaism. 6 They presented these men to the apostles, who prayed and laid their hands on them. 7 So the word of God spread. The number of disciples in Jerusalem increased rapidly, and a large number of priests became obedient to the faith.

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When Conflict Comes:

- *Find The Cause Of The Conflict – (Acts 6:1)*
- *Give A Godly Response To The Conflict (Acts 6:2-4)*
- *Enjoy The Good Result Of Handling Conflict Well (Acts 6:7)*

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Lesson 2: Stephen Finds Trouble – Opposition Arises

- **Stephen Ministers In The Synagogue (Acts 6:8-10)**
- **Stephen Is Charged W/ Blasphemy (Acts 6:11-14)**
- **Stephen Responds To The Charges (Acts 6:15 -7:2)**
 1. *God's relationship with the patriarchs (Acts 7:2–17)*
 2. *Moses and the Law (Acts 7:18–43)*
 3. *Solomon's Temple and God's presence (Acts 7:44–50)*
 4. *Pattern of rejection & resistance to the Holy Spirit (Acts 7:51–52)*

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Lesson 3: Stephen: The First Martyr

- *He Is Full Of The Spirit (Acts 7:54-55)*
- *He Has A Heavenly Focus (Acts 7:56-58)*
- *He Follows The Example Of Jesus (Acts 7:59-60)*

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What Good Can Come Out Of Trouble?

- Due to trouble in the church, Stephen emerged as a leader.
- Stephen was martyred, the church was persecuted and scattered.
- The church was scattered, some Christians went as far as Antioch
- Due to Stephen's ministry and prayer, Saul became the Apostle Paul.
- Paul wrote about 2/3rds of the New Testament.
- ***Is it possible that had there not been a church problem, we would not have two-thirds of the New Testament?***

When Trouble Comes

What good can come from trouble?

- God is working to refine His church.
- God will refine each of us, too, if we patiently let Him work on us.
- The cause-and-effect relationship is not often seen in a short time.
- It takes a while to see it work out. But God does all things well when we put our trust in Him. Wood, G. O. (2010). Acts: The Holy Spirit at work in believers
- ***God Is Working For Good In The Church And In Our Lives.***

When Trouble Comes

1. Grecian Jews were those who had

- come back to Jerusalem from foreign lands.
- picked up the ways and customs of foreign lands.
- never learned to speak, read, or write Hebrew.
- done all of the above.

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2. The biblical way of handling disputes is found in

- [Matthew 5:23-24.](#)
- [John 5:1-4.](#)
- [Acts 7:1-5.](#)
- [Philippians 4:6-10.](#)

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3. The seven men chosen to serve the Grecian widows in [Acts 6](#) were men

- of good reputation, popularity, and full of the Holy Spirit.
- of wealth, full of wisdom, and of good reputation.
- of good reputation, full of wisdom, and full of the Holy Spirit.
- of popularity, full of wisdom and of the Holy Spirit.

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4. The seven men chosen to serve the Grecian widows in [Acts 6](#) had

- Greek names.
- Hebrew names.
- Roman names.
- Aramaic names.

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5. Stephen's name means

- "prince."
- "witness."
- "crown."
- "victorious."

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6. The word *synagogue* literally means

- "holy place."
- "a gathering together."
- "the place of God's presence."
- "temple."

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7. The synagogue served the function of

- worship.
- education.
- social interchange.
- all of the above.

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8. Stephen's sermon to the Sanhedrin is called his

- "testimony."
- "indictment."
- "apology."
- "homily."

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9. From the death of Stephen, one learns that death is

- an end in itself.
- inevitable.
- painful.
- a doorway into the presence of God.

When Trouble Comes

10. Stephen was stoned

- at the Sanhedrin.
- outside the city.
- at Golgotha.
- near the Mount of Olives.