

# TO BE CONTINUED

## A STUDY IN THE BOOK OF ACTS

HAVEN LIFE GROUP GUIDE  
"CHASING THE BALL INSTEAD OF PLAYING THE GAME" - ACTS 7

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### KEY TAKEAWAYS

- We can easily fall into the trap of focusing on religious practices or cultural aspects of faith rather than on God Himself.
  - Idolatry isn't just about worshipping false gods, but can include making aspects of our faith or Christian culture into idols.
  - We become like what we worship - if we truly worship God, we will become more like Him.
  - It's possible to inherit God's blessings but never fully possess or experience them if our focus is misplaced.
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### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. The speaker used a soccer analogy to illustrate chasing the ball vs. playing the game. How does this relate to our spiritual lives? Can you think of examples where you've "chased the ball" in your faith?
  2. The sermon highlighted how Israel often missed God's true intentions by focusing on the gifts (land, law, temple) rather than the Giver. In what ways might we be doing something similar in our modern Christian culture?
  3. How would you define idolatry based on this sermon? What are some subtle forms of idolatry that Christians might fall into today?
  4. The speaker said, "We become like what we worship." Reflect on this statement. How have you seen this play out in your own life or in the lives of others?
  5. Discuss the difference between "inheriting" and "possessing" our spiritual inheritance. What might prevent us from fully experiencing the blessings God has for us?
  6. The sermon mentions Stephen's response to persecution. How can we cultivate a faith that remains strong and loving even in the face of opposition?
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### PRACTICAL APPLICATIONS

**Self-Examination:** Take time this week to prayerfully ask God to reveal any idols in your life. Journal about what He shows you.

**Focus Shift:** Identify one area where you may be "chasing the ball" in your spiritual life. Make a concrete plan to shift your focus back to God Himself in that area.

**Worship Intentionality:** Be mindful of your worship this week, both in church and in your personal time. Reflect on whether you're going through motions or truly connecting with God.

**Scripture Meditation:** Spend time meditating on 2 Corinthians 3:17-18, reflecting on how gazing upon God transforms us.