



# Open Your Eyes, Heart and Hands

*Philadelphia Church*

*Pastor Sue Gunderson*

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## Acts 7:51-53

***51 “You stiff-necked and uncircumcised in heart and ears! You always resist the Holy Spirit; as your fathers did, so do you. 52 Which of the prophets did your fathers not persecute? And they killed those who foretold the coming of the Just One, of whom you now have become the betrayers and murderers, 53 who have received the law by the direction of angels and have not kept it.”***

## **Acts 7:54-60**

***54 When they heard these things they were cut to the heart, and they gnashed at him with their teeth. 55 But he, being full of the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God, 56 and said, “Look! I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!”***

***57 Then they cried out with a loud voice, stopped their ears, and ran at him with one accord; 58 and they cast him out of the city and stoned him. And the witnesses laid down their clothes at the feet of a young man named Saul. 59 And they stoned Stephen as he was calling on God and saying, “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.” 60 Then he knelt down and cried out with a loud voice, “Lord, do not charge them with this sin.” And when he had said this, he fell asleep.***

# Stephen and the Stoners:

**What did the eyes see?**

## **Stephen and the Stoners:**

**What did the eyes  
see?**



**How did the  
heart respond?**

# Stephen and the Stoners:

**What did the eyes see?**



**How did the heart respond?**



**What did the hands do?**

## **Acts 8:1-3**

***8 Now Saul was consenting to his death.***

***At that time a great persecution arose against the church which was at Jerusalem; and they were all scattered throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria, except the apostles. <sup>2</sup> And devout men carried Stephen to his burial, and made great lamentation over him.***

***<sup>3</sup> As for Saul, he made havoc of the church, entering every house, and dragging off men and women, committing them to prison.***

**Saul's eyes were  
searching...**

**Saul's eyes were  
searching...**

**Saul's heart was  
accusing...**

**Saul's eyes were searching...**

**Saul's heart was accusing...**

**Sual's hands were  
punishing...**

## **Acts 8:9-13**

***<sup>9</sup> But there was a certain man called Simon, who previously practiced sorcery in the city and astonished the people of Samaria, claiming that he was someone great, <sup>10</sup> to whom they all gave heed, from the least to the greatest, saying, “This man is the great power of God.” <sup>11</sup> And they heeded him because he had astonished them with his sorceries for a long time. <sup>12</sup> But when they believed Philip as he preached the things concerning the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, both men and women were baptized. <sup>13</sup> Then Simon himself also believed; and when he was baptized he continued with Philip, and was amazed, seeing the miracles and signs which were done.***

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# **Simon saw miracles and baptisms**

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**Simon saw miracles and baptisms**

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**Simon believed in Jesus and the Kingdom of God**

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**Simon saw miracles and baptisms**

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**Simon believed in Jesus and the Kingdom of God**

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**Simon was baptized and followed Philip**

## **Acts 8:14-24**

***14 Now when the apostles who were at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them, 15 who, when they had come down, prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit. 16 For as yet He had fallen upon none of them. They had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. 17 Then they laid hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.***

***18 And when Simon saw that through the laying on of the apostles' hands the Holy Spirit was given, he offered them money, 19 saying, "Give me this power also, that anyone on whom I lay hands may receive the Holy Spirit."***

## **Acts 8:14-24**

***20 But Peter said to him, “Your money perish with you, because you thought that the gift of God could be purchased with money! 21 You have neither part nor portion in this matter, for your heart is not right in the sight of God. 22 Repent therefore of this your wickedness, and pray God if perhaps the thought of your heart may be forgiven you. 23 For I see that you are poisoned by bitterness and bound by iniquity.”***

***24 Then Simon answered and said, “Pray to the Lord for me, that none of the things which you have spoken may come upon me.”***

01

**Simon saw an  
opportunity with  
money**

01

**Simon saw an  
opportunity  
with money**

02

**Simon's heart  
was poisoned  
with bitterness  
and iniquity**

**01**

**Simon saw  
an  
opportunity  
with money**

**02**

**Simon's heart  
was poisoned  
with bitterness  
and iniquity**

**03**

**Simon asked  
for prayer  
that he may  
be forgiven**

## **Acts 9:1-2**

***9 Then Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest <sup>2</sup> and asked letters from him to the synagogues of Damascus, so that if he found any who were of the Way, whether men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem.***

## **Acts 9:3-9**

***3 As he journeyed he came near Damascus, and suddenly a light shone around him from heaven. 4 Then he fell to the ground, and heard a voice saying to him, “Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?”***

***5 And he said, “Who are You, Lord?”***

***Then the Lord said, “I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. It is hard for you to kick against the goads.”***

***6 So he, trembling and astonished, said, “Lord, what do You want me to do?”***

***Then the Lord said to him, “Arise and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do.”***

***7 And the men who journeyed with him stood speechless, hearing a voice but seeing no one. 8 Then Saul arose from the ground, and when his eyes were opened he saw no one. But they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus. 9 And he was three days without sight, and neither ate nor drank.***

# **Kicking Against the Goats**

**Futilely resisting divine guidance  
or authority, ultimately causing  
self- harm**

**Origins in agriculture  
Stubborn oxen kicked against  
sharp prods only wounding  
themselves**

**When Jesus encounters Saul:**

**Saul cannot see the Light of  
Truth**

## **When Jesus encounters Saul:**

**Saul cannot see the  
Light of Truth**



**Saul's heart cannot  
identify the Lord he  
is persecuting**

## **When Jesus encounters Saul:**

**Saul cannot see the Light of Truth**



**Saul's heart cannot identify the Lord he is persecuting**



**Saul's hands are full of letters to bind others but he needs to be led**

## **Acts 9:10-17**

***10 Now there was a certain disciple at Damascus named Ananias; and to him the Lord said in a vision, “Ananias.”***

***And he said, “Here I am, Lord.”***

***11 So the Lord said to him, “Arise and go to the street called Straight, and inquire at the house of Judas for one called Saul of Tarsus, for behold, he is praying. 12 And in a vision he has seen a man named Ananias coming in and putting his hand on him, so that he might receive his sight.”***

***13 Then Ananias answered, “Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much harm he has done to Your saints in Jerusalem.***

## **Acts 9:10-17 cont.**

***14 And here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who call on Your name.”***

***15 But the Lord said to him, “Go, for he is a chosen vessel of Mine to bear My name before Gentiles, kings, and the children of Israel. 16 For I will show him how many things he must suffer for My name’s sake.”***

***17 And Ananias went his way and entered the house; and laying his hands on him he said, “Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on the road as you came, has sent me that you may receive your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit.”***

**Ananias sees Jesus and  
knows Him**

**Ananias sees Jesus and  
knows Him**

**Ananias trusts and obeys  
the Lord**

**Ananias sees Jesus and knows Him**

**Ananias trusts and obeys the Lord**

**Ananias lays his hands on Saul for  
him to receive the Holy Spirit**

**Are you more like  
Saul or Ananias?**

## **Acts 9:18-19**

***18 Immediately there fell from his eyes something like scales, and he received his sight at once; and he arose and was baptized.***

***19 So when he had received food, he was strengthened. Then Saul spent some days with the disciples at Damascus.***

**Saul opened his eyes and  
could see**

**Saul opened his eyes and  
could see**

**Saul opened his heart and  
received baptism**

**Saul opened his eyes and could see**

**Saul opened his heart and received baptism**

**Saul opened his hands to join the disciples**

**Jesus is asking all of us:**

**What do you see that fuels  
your passion?**

**Jesus is asking all of us:**

**What do you see that fuels  
your passion?**

**What is in your hands?**

**Jesus is asking all of us:**

**What do you see that fuels your passion?**

**How does your heart respond to Him and others?**

**What is in your hands?**

## **Psalms 51:9-13**

***9 Hide Your face from my sins,  
And blot out all my iniquities.***

***10 Create in me a clean heart, O God,  
And renew a steadfast spirit within me.***

***11 Do not cast me away from Your presence,  
And do not take Your Holy Spirit from me.***

***12 Restore to me the joy of Your salvation,  
And uphold me by Your generous Spirit.***

***13 Then I will teach transgressors Your ways,  
And sinners shall be converted to You.***