

Listening to the Holy Spirit



MEMORY VERSE: "Since we are living by the Spirit, let us follow the Spirit's leading in every part of our lives."
Galatians 5:25



ACTS 6:8-15 Stephen Is Arrested

1. Stephen was one the early Christ followers serving along side the apostles. How is Stephen described in verse 8?
2. Read verses 10-12. What happened when some of the Jews debated Stephen? v. 10
What happened to Stephen when the men lied about him? v. 12
3. What happened to Stephen's face? v. 15 What do you think God did this?



ACTS 7:51-60 The Stoning of Stephen

4. After Stephen recapped the history of Israel and their continual rejection of God (7:1-50), he spoke directly to the Jewish leaders. He said that they _____ disobeyed God's law. v. 53
5. The leaders decided to kill Stephen with rocks. This is called "stoning." What did Stephen see before he was killed? v. 56
6. Read verses 58-60. Why do you think this is what Stephen prayed? How can we be more like Stephen?



ACTS 8:26-40 Being Available for God

7. Why did Philip go down the road from Jerusalem to Gaza? Who did he meet? vv. 26-27

8. Read verses 28-35. Why was it so important that Philip listened and obeyed the Holy Spirit? Can you share an experience in your life when the Holy Spirit nudged you?

9. Read verses 36-38. What happened after Philip explained the Good News (Gospel) to the man? The man went away rejoicing. Why is the Gospel worth rejoicing over?

10. What miracle happened after Philip baptized the Ethiopian? vv. 39-40

BELIEVE THE TRUTH

The Good News about Jesus was spread by people who were made bold by the Holy Spirit. Some, like Stephen, told about Jesus in Jerusalem. Others, like Philip, went to new places. Both men did mighty work for God simply by being available. Wherever we are, we can ask God to help us see opportunities and make us bold so we can tell others the Good News!


PRAY THE TRUTH

Dear God, please protect the Christians and missionaries who are hurt and even put in jail because of their love for You. Give me the words and actions so I can tell the Good News about Jesus to my family and friends. Amen.

WALK IN TRUTH



Do you feel that you listen to the Holy Spirit? In what ways are you good at listening to the Holy Spirit? In what ways could you do better?



Acts 6:8-15; Acts 7:51-60; Acts 8:26-40 (NLT)

Acts 6:8-15 Stephen Is Arrested


8 Stephen, a man full of God's grace and power, performed amazing miracles and signs among the people. 9 But one day some men from the Synagogue of Freed Slaves, as it was called, started to debate with him. They were Jews from Cyrene, Alexandria, Cilicia, and the province of Asia. 10 None of them could stand against the wisdom and the Spirit with which Stephen spoke. 11 So they persuaded some men to lie about Stephen, saying, "We heard him blaspheme Moses, and even God." 12 This roused the people, the elders, and the teachers of religious law. So they arrested Stephen and brought him before the high council. 13 The lying witnesses said, "This man is always speaking against the holy Temple and against the law of Moses. 14 We have heard him say that this Jesus of Nazareth will destroy the Temple and change the customs Moses handed down to us." 15 At this point everyone in the high council stared at Stephen, because his face became as bright as an angel's.

Acts 7:51-60

51 "You stubborn people! You are heathen at heart and deaf to the truth. Must you forever resist the Holy Spirit? That's what your ancestors did, and so do you! 52 Name one prophet your ancestors didn't persecute! They even killed the ones who predicted the coming of the Righteous One — the Messiah whom you betrayed and murdered. 53 You deliberately disobeyed God's law, even though you received it from the hands of angels." 54 The Jewish leaders were infuriated by Stephen's accusation, and they shook their fists at him in rage. 55 But Stephen, full of the Holy Spirit, gazed steadily into heaven and saw the glory of God, and he saw Jesus standing in the place of honor at God's right hand. 56 And he told them, "Look, I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing in the place of honor at God's right hand!" 57 Then they put their hands over their ears and began shouting. They rushed at him 58 and dragged him out of the city and began to stone him. His accusers took off their coats and laid them at the feet of a young man named Saul. 59 As they stoned him, Stephen prayed, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." 60 He fell to his knees, shouting, "Lord, don't charge them with this sin!" And with that, he died.

Acts 8:26-40 Philip and the Ethiopian Eunuch

26 As for Philip, an angel of the Lord said to him, "Go south down the desert road that runs from Jerusalem to Gaza." 27 So he started out, and he met the treasurer of Ethiopia, a eunuch of great authority under the Kandake, the queen of Ethiopia. The eunuch had gone to Jerusalem to worship, 28 and he was now returning. Seated in his carriage, he was reading aloud from the book of the prophet Isaiah. 29 The Holy Spirit said to Philip, "Go over and walk along beside the carriage." 30 Philip ran over and heard the man reading from the prophet Isaiah. Philip asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" 31 The man replied, "How can I, unless someone instructs me?" And he urged Philip to come up into the carriage and sit with him. 32 The passage of Scripture he had been reading was this:
"He was led like a sheep to the slaughter.
And as a lamb is silent before the shearers, he did not open his mouth."



Acts 6:8-15; Acts 7:51-60; Acts 8:26-40 (NLT)

33 He was humiliated and received no justice.

Who can speak of his descendants?

For his life was taken from the earth.”

34 The eunuch asked Philip, “Tell me, was the prophet talking about himself or someone else?”

35 So beginning with this same Scripture, Philip told him the Good News about Jesus. 36 As they rode along, they came to some water, and the eunuch said, “Look! There’s some water!

Why can’t I be baptized?” 38 He ordered the carriage to stop, and they went down into the

water, and Philip baptized him. 39 When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away. The eunuch never saw him again but went on his way rejoicing. 40

Meanwhile, Philip found himself farther north at the town of Azotus. He preached the Good News there and in every town along the way until he came to Caesarea.

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