

THE POWER OF A CHANGED LIFE

Living a Changed Life

ACTS 6:8–7:60

Now when they heard these things they were enraged, and they ground their teeth at him. But he, full of the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. And he said, "Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God." But they cried out with a loud voice and stopped their ears and rushed together at him. Then they cast him out of the city and stoned him. And the witnesses laid down their garments at the feet of a young man named Saul. And as they were stoning Stephen, he called out, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." And falling to his knees he cried out with a loud voice, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." And when he had said this, he fell asleep. Acts 7:54-60

I. A CHANGED LIFE _____ to reach others.

And Stephen, full of grace and power, was doing great wonders and signs among the people. ... Acts 6:8-15

What are you living for?

II. A CHANGED LIFE _____ the plans of God.

... And Stephen said: "Brothers and fathers, hear me. ..." Acts 7:1-53

CHARGES AGAINST STEPHEN

Spoke against Moses and the law (7:11, 13)

Spoke against God (7:11)

Spoke against the Temple (7:13)

STEPHEN'S RESPONSE

Affirmed Moses as God's chosen deliverer (7:20-46)

Affirmed God's faithfulness (7:2-8)

Affirmed Jesus as the means to worship (7:49)

How are you following God?

III. A CHANGED LIFE _____ on the presence of Jesus.

... But he, full of the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. ... Acts 7:54-60

How are you focusing on Jesus now?

And the witnesses laid down their garments at the feet of a young man named Saul. Acts 7:58



THE POWER OF A CHANGED LIFE Devotional Study

Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal His truth and wisdom as you go through this lesson.

1. Read Acts 6:8–7:60. When asked if the charges were true, Stephen responded with a sermon. List the people mentioned and the part they play in the history he is retelling.



"What interests many people most about Stephen is that he was the first Christian martyr. Luke's main concern lies elsewhere, however. He emphasizes the vital role Stephen played in the development of the worldwide Christian mission through both his teaching and his death. Stephen's martyrdom supplemented the influence of his teaching. Not only did it deeply impress Saul of Tarsus and contribute to his conversion, which led to his becoming the apostle to the Gentiles, but it was also the start of 'a great persecution,' which led to the scattering of the disciples 'throughout Judea and Samaria' (8:1). The church was shocked, even stunned by the martyrdom of Stephen and by the violent opposition that followed. But we can see how God's providence used Stephen's testimony in word and deed, through life and death, to promote the church's mission."

JOHN STOTT

"The only way a believer can live like Stephen is by dying to his sinful self. Those busy looking out for their own interests will have little time or inclination to abandon themselves and experience the grace Stephen experienced."

JOHN MACARTHUR

2. What do you learn about God from Stephen's sermon?

3. How are Stephen's accusers actually guilty of that which they accused him?

4. Why does the true preaching of the Word of God lead some to an angry response?

5. As a follower of Jesus, how do you respond to the possibility of death?

6. How would you like the way you daily follow Jesus to be influenced by the example of Stephen's life?

A WONDERFUL OFFER

Being a Christian isn't based on membership in a local church or keeping a set of rules. It involves a personal relationship with Jesus Christ and an understanding of who He is and what He has done to provide man with a way to experience God's love for us. Here's how to know Jesus Christ as your personal Savior:

1. Realize that you are sinful and separated from God. (Romans 3:23; Isaiah 53:6)
 2. Recognize that the penalty for your sin is death—eternal separation from God and all that is good. (Romans 6:23; Hebrews 9:27)
 3. Understand that Jesus Christ took the penalty for your sin by dying in your place and that He rose again. (Romans 5:8; 2 Corinthians 5:21)
 4. Receive the free gift of salvation by trusting in Christ alone as your Savior. (Romans 4:4-5; Ephesians 2:8-9)
- "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life." (John 3:16 NASB) You can use this prayer to express your decision to God:
- "Dear God, I know that I am a sinner. I believe that Jesus Christ died on the cross for me and rose from the dead. I trust in Him alone as the only way to get right with You. Thank You for the forgiveness of sins and the eternal life I now have. Amen."*

For more about having a personal relationship with Jesus visit www.ccbcfamily.org/nextsteps.

COMING UP AT CHRIST CHAPEL

Here's a glimpse at what you need to know for this week at Christ Chapel. If you'd like to find out even more, visit www.ccbcfamily.org/events.

QUILTING FOR LIFE On Tuesday, June 13 from 1-2:30 p.m. we'll be gathering in the Oak Room for our Quilting Bee! Supporting our wonderful pregnancy center partners, these quilts will be given to mothers after their first sonograms.

WOMEN IN THE WORD: OUR FAVORITE STORIES From toddlers to adults, everyone loves stories. Whether we are telling or hearing it, each of us has a favorite one. Ready to have a new favorite? Join Women in the Word this summer as they hear life-changing stories about Jesus and press into knowing Him deeper! Find times, locations and registration by visiting www.ccbcfamily.org/wiw.

BAND OF BROTHERS: THE GODLY MAN'S PICTURE Are you looking to grow in your understanding of what it means to be a godly man? Come to Band of Brother's The Godly Man's Picture, a six-week study where we will dive into the lives of six different characters from the Bible. Through exploring their stories, we'll discover biblical principles for displaying and defining the image of God in our own lives. This series is designed to equip men with practical tools to live out their faith with courage and impact. Find dates, locations and registration at www.ccbcfamily.org/bob.

FINANCIAL PEACE UNIVERSITY Find steps to financial freedom, and a biblical perspective on budgeting, during this nine-week course, Financial Freedom University. Led by Kris Beaulieu, and developed by financial expert Dave Ramsey, this course will cover a variety of principles and practices that will strengthen all of us in being faithful owners of our resources. Find details and dates by visiting www.ccbcfamily.org/fpu.

MANPOWER is a group that serves the widows and single moms of Christ Chapel one Saturday every month and they're looking for more men to join their crew! Experience and special skills aren't needed—just a willingness to get your hands dirty and help with outdoor projects and home maintenance tasks. Email us at ManPower@christchapelbc.org to learn more and sign up today.

THERE'S A JOB FOR YOU From facilities and worship to students and creative, every role at Christ Chapel makes it possible for us to make much of Jesus! We want to invite you into a conversation about being a part of our team today. Visit www.ccbcfamily.org/jobs to get started.

BE, MAKE AND REACH WITH LIVE PRODUCTION If you have experience and interest in live production and camera operation, we'd love to chat with you about volunteering with our Production Team. Get the conversation started by visiting [@christchapelproduction](https://www.instagram.com/christchapelproduction) on Instagram, and send us a message today!



LOOKING FOR THE CONNECT CARD? Scan the QR code here to fill out a Connect Card. Our team will reach out this week to answer your questions and tell you more about Christ Chapel.

IF YOU'D LIKE TO GIVE AN OFFERING TODAY, YOU CAN DO SO STRAIGHT FROM YOUR PHONE. The process is quick and easy—text CCBCONLINE to 833-422-7200 to get started.