

Today's Focus: Trust & Obey, there is No Other Way

Resisting the Holy = Not Trusting and Obeying the Holy Spirit.

Acts 6:8-10 – Stephen is a man full of grace and power.

Acts 6:11-15 – Stephen is falsely accused.

Acts 7:1-2- Stephen is before the Sanhedrin.

Acts 7:3-53 - Stephen's response to accusations

Why Does the Author Zero in On Moses?

1. This is the person God used to deliver your ancestors
2. Through Moses they received the law and the temple.

Act 7:23-27 (NIV)

23 "When Moses was forty years old, he decided to visit his own people, the Israelites.

24 He saw one of them being mistreated by an Egyptian, so he went to his defense and avenged him by killing the Egyptian.

25 Moses thought that his own people would realize that God was using him to rescue them, but they did not.

26 The next day Moses came upon two Israelites who were fighting. He tried to reconcile them by saying, 'Men, you are brothers; why do you want to hurt each other?'

27 "But the man who was mistreating the other pushed Moses aside and said, 'Who made you ruler and judge over us?'

Act 7:30-32, 35 (NIV)

30 "After forty years had passed, an angel appeared to Moses in the flames of a burning bush in the desert near Mount Sinai.

31 When he saw this, he was amazed at the sight. As he went over to get a closer look, he heard the Lord say:

32 'I am the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.' Moses trembled with fear and did not dare to look.

35 "This is the same Moses they had rejected with the words, 'Who made you ruler and judge?' He was sent to be their ruler and deliverer by God himself, through the angel who appeared to him in the bush.

Act 7:37, 39 (NIV)

37 "This is the Moses who told the Israelites, 'God will raise up for you a prophet like me from your own people.'

39 "But our ancestors refused to obey him. Instead, they rejected him and, in their hearts, turned back to Egypt.

Why Does the Author Zero in On Moses?

3. God gave them the temple to worship Him but instead they worship the temple.

Act 7:44 (NIV)

44 "Our ancestors had the tabernacle of the covenant law with them in the wilderness. It had been made as God directed Moses, according to the pattern he had seen.

Act 7:48-50 (NIV)

48 "However, the Most High does not live in houses made by human hands. As the prophet says:

49 "'Heaven is my throne, and the earth is my footstool. What kind of house will you build for me? says the Lord. Or where will my resting place be?

50 Has not my hand made all these things?'

What was Stephen's point?

Act 7:51-53 (NIV)

51 "You stiff-necked people! Your hearts and ears are still uncircumcised.
You are just like your ancestors: You always resist the Holy Spirit!

Resisting the Holy Spirit

- Rejecting the truth that the Holy Spirit reveals
- Ignoring what the Holy Spirit Says
- Disobedient to the instructions given the Holy Spirit

52 **Was there ever a prophet your ancestors did not persecute? They even killed those who predicted the coming of the Righteous One. And now you have betrayed and murdered him—**

53 **you who have received the law that was given through angels but have not obeyed it."**

What is Stephen Saying?

You have a history of rejecting God's message and even killing God's messengers. Jesus came and you rejected Him and His message.

Acts 7:54-59 – The People's Reaction to Stephen

Act 7:54-59 (NIV)

54 When the members of the Sanhedrin heard this, they were furious and gnashed their teeth at him.

55 But Stephen, full of the Holy Spirit, looked up to heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God.

56 "Look," he said, "I see heaven open and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God."

57 At this they covered their ears and, yelling at the top of their voices, they all rushed at him,

58 dragged him out of the city and began to stone him. Meanwhile, the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul.

59 While they were stoning him, Stephen prayed, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit."

How Does This Text Apply to You and Me?

1. Sometimes doing what is right may produce wrong results – Acts 7:57-60
2. Stop selective obedience. Always obey the promptings of the Holy Spirit – Acts 7:51
3. keep obeying Him because God is at work, even when we can't see it – Acts 7:55
4. Focus on winning the unbelieving to Christ even when they hate you – Acts 7:60