The Holy Spirit in Acts

Session 4: Free in Jerusalem

Acts 5:12 - 7:60

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For Handouts, Discussion Guide and more, visit <u>blog.dirkscorner.com</u>. Videos will also be posted on our <u>Bethany Church YouTube Channel</u>.

Note: Unless otherwise indicated, all scripture passages are taken from the New International Version (2011), Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan.

Session Outline

- 1. Apostles Free to Proclaim
- 2. Stephen Free to Serve

1. Apostles Free to Proclaim

- Miraculous Deliverance
- Empowered Witness

"They* arrested the apostles and put them in the public jail. But during

Miraculous Deliverance

the night an angel of the Lord opened the doors of the jail and brought them out."

Acts 5:18-19

*"...the high priest and all his associates, who were members of the party of the Sadducees..." Acts 5:17

"'Go, stand in the temple courts,' he said, 'and tell the people all about this new life.'"

Empowered Witness

Acts 5:20

Liberated, but not out of danger

"Peter and the other apostles replied: 'We must obey God rather than human beings!'"

Empowered Witness

Acts 5:29

Empowered by the mission

"We are witnesses of these things, and <u>so is the Holy</u> <u>Spirit</u>, whom God has given to those who obey him."

Empowered Witness

Acts 5:32

The Sprit telling His Story through our Story

- Chosen to Serve
- Chosen to Witness
- Chosen for Glory

"In those days when the number of disciples was increasing, the Hellenistic Jews among them complained against the Hebraic Jews because their widows were being overlooked in the daily distribution of food*."

Chosen to Serve

Chosen to Serve

Acts 6:1

Even the first NT church had its issues!
*Original term related to our word, "deacon".

"Brothers and sisters, choose seven men from among you who are known to be full of the Spirit and wisdom. We will turn this responsibility over to them and will give our attention to prayer and the ministry of the word."

Chosen to Serve

Chosen to Serve

Acts 6:3-4

"full of the Spirit", a life exhibiting the influence of the Spirit; this time coupled with "wisdom"

3 Related Phrases So Far

- "Baptized" by the Spirit: initial "receiving" of the Spirit; symbolized in water baptism. Acts 1:5,8; 2:38
- "Filled with the Spirit": power given at a particular moment to fulfill a mission; often repeated. Acts 2:4; 4:8; 4:31
- "Full of the Holy Spirit": showing the influence and power of the Spirit in one's life: Acts 6:3,5

"This proposal pleased the whole group. They chose <u>Stephen</u>, a man <u>full of faith and of the Holy Spirit</u>; also <u>Philip</u>, Procorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolas from Antioch, a convert to Judaism.

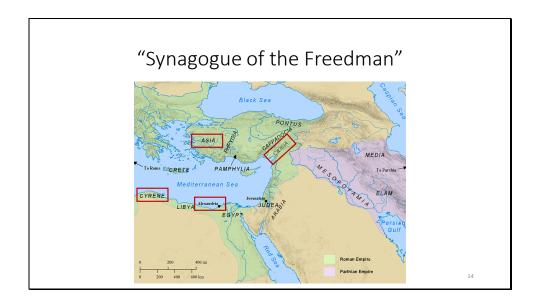
Acts 6:5

"full of the Spirit", a life exhibiting the influence of the Spirit; this time coupled with "faith"

"Opposition arose, however, from members of the Synagogue of the Freedmen* (as it was called)— Jews of Cyrene and Alexandria as well as the provinces of Cilicia and Asia—who began to argue with Stephen."

Acts 6:9

*Probably those who had been legally released from slavery



2.	Stephen	Free	to	Serve
	Stephen	1 1 0 0	-	

"But they could not stand up against the wisdom the Spirit gave him as he spoke."

Chosen to Witness

Acts 6:10

"When you are brought before synagogues, rulers and authorities, do not worry about how you will defend yourselves or what you will say, *for the Holy Spirit will teach you* at that time what you should say."

Luke 12:11-12

"All who were sitting in the Sanhedrin looked intently at Stephen, and they saw that his face was like the face of an angel."

Acts 6:15

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

Chosen to Witness

Acts 7:51

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

Acts 7:54-55

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

Chosen for Glory

Acts 7:56

man named Saul."

"At this they covered their ears and, yelling at the top of their voices, they all rushed at him, dragged him out of the city and began to stone him. Meanwhile,

Acts 7:57-58

21

the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young

"While they were stoning him, Stephen prayed,

Chosen for Glory

'Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.' Then he fell on his knees and cried out, 'Lord, do not hold this sin against them.' When he had said this, he fell asleep."

Acts 7:59-60

Compare the words of Jesus, Luke 23:46

Conclusion

Last Week: Through His Spirit and His faithful

witnesses, God extends His

spiritual kingdom to all nations.

This Week: The Spirit liberates and empowers

faithful witnesses to serve in this life,

on their way to a glorious eternity.