

Acts 7 “Stephen’ Message!” April 18, 2021

1) Faith isn’t an act of the _____.
Faith isn’t a dictate of our _____.
Faith is a response of our _____ to the convicting,
convincing work of the Holy Spirit!

(Rom. 12:6-7; 1 Cor. 12:10; Eph. 4:11; Acts 6:8; Luke 6:19-31; John 16:8-9; John 11:25-27, 47-48; Rom. 10:17)

2) Stephen is saying, “Abraham’s _____ children will
follow in his footsteps of faith!”
...and that applies to us as well!

3) God requires our _____ to look beyond the obvious...
...just as Abraham and Joseph had already demonstrated:
God’s deliverance requires puzzling, peculiar belief! Faith in
the surprising, the unexpected—that which disrupts the
_____!

4) Religion can’t save anyone! The church can’t save
anyone! Only faith in Jesus provides the forgiveness and
righteousness _____ for Heaven.

(Hebrews 8:2b, 4b-5; Col. 3:1b; Mark 14:62; Dan. 7:13-14;
Psalm 110:1; Acts 6:9)

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1) Faith isn’t an act of the **intellect**.

Faith isn’t a dictate of our **feelings**.

Faith is a response of our **will** to the convicting, convincing
work of the Holy Spirit!

(Rom. 12:6-7; 1 Cor. 12:10; Eph. 4:11; Acts 6:8; Luke 6:19-31; John 16:8-9; John 11:25-27, 47-48; Rom. 10:17)

2) Stephen is saying, “Abraham’s **true** children will follow in
his footsteps of faith!”
...and that applies to us as well!

3) God requires our **faith** to look beyond the obvious...
...just as Abraham and Joseph had already demonstrated:
God’s deliverance requires puzzling, peculiar belief! Faith in
the surprising, the unexpected—that which disrupts the
status quo!

4) Religion can’t save anyone! The church can’t save
anyone! Only faith in Jesus provides the forgiveness and
righteousness **required** for Heaven.

(Hebrews 8:2b, 4b-5; Col. 3:1b; Mark 14:62; Dan. 7:13-14;
Psalm 110:1; Acts 6:9)

How might someone know the difference between trusting God's promises and taking the promise into their own hands?

If you had a friend, family member, co-worker or neighbor ask you for advice on trying to discern the difference between trusting God's promise and taking it into their own hands, what advice would you give them?

TAKING IT HOME

- 6) Taking what you've learned from this week's teaching and homework, explain in your own words what it means to have faith in Jesus. What does having faith in Jesus *not* mean?

- 7) Looking back at this week's teaching and homework, what is most important for you to remember and why?

PRAYER REQUESTS

- ▶
- ▶
- ▶

Life Group Homework For the week of April 18, 2021

GETTING TO KNOW YOU

- 1) The nation of Israel tended to slip back into religion - relating to God through rituals and tradition, and often missed God or His prophets because of it! Have you ever tried to relate to God through religion? If so, explain.

REVIEW

- 2) Looking back at your notes, what stood out to you from this week's message? (Favorite point? Questions? etc..)

DIGGING DEEPER

- 3) This week Don shared that faith is not based on feeling or intellect, but is a response of our will to God's leading. Read the following passage about the disciples' faith (or lack of), making note of any comments or questions.

Mark 4:35-41 - "[35] On the same day, when evening had come, He said to them, "Let us cross over to the other side." [36] Now when they had left the multitude, they took Him along in the boat as He was. And other little boats were also with Him. [37] And a great windstorm arose, and the waves beat into the boat, so that it was already filling. [38] But He was in the stern, asleep on a pillow. And they awoke Him and said to Him, "Teacher, do You not care that we are perishing?" [39] Then He arose and rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, "Peace, be

still!" And the wind ceased and there was a great calm. [40] But He said to them, "Why are you so fearful? How is it that you have no faith?" [41] And they feared exceedingly, and said to one another, "Who can this be, that even the wind and the sea obey Him!"

If you were one of the disciples, how would your feelings be leading you to react?

What would your intellect be telling you?

What was God's Word/leading to the disciples (v. 35)?
How should that have prepared the disciples for the storm?

What caused the disciples to forget God's Word?

What causes you to forget God's Word?

What things best help you to be prepared to act in faith, rather than acting according to your feelings or intellect?

- 4) Faith can be defined as *trusting God to do what He says*. Sometimes we are tempted to trust in things *other than God*, or tempted to trust God to do *things He never said*

He would do. Which of these two temptations do you think is more common? Why?

- 5) God promised to make Abraham, who was old and childless, into a great nation. Read the following passage about how Abraham and his wife tried to fulfill God's promise in their own way.

Genesis 16:1-4 - "[1] Now Sarai, Abram's wife, had borne him no children. And she had an Egyptian maidservant whose name was Hagar. [2] So Sarai said to Abram, "See now, the LORD has restrained me from bearing children. Please, go in to my maid; perhaps I shall obtain children by her." And Abram heeded the voice of Sarai. [3] Then Sarai, Abram's wife, took Hagar her maid, the Egyptian, and gave her to her husband Abram to be his wife, after Abram had dwelt ten years in the land of Canaan. [4] So he went in to Hagar, and she conceived. And when she saw that she had conceived, her mistress became despised in her eyes."

What do you think led Abraham (Abram) and Sarah (Sarai) to try and fulfill God's promise on their own?

Have you ever tried to take a promise made by God into your own hands like Abraham and Sarah?

Did you learn anything from that experience?