

Scripture this week:

Acts 7:51-8:8

⁵¹“You stiff-necked people, uncircumcised in heart and ears, you always resist the Holy Spirit. As your fathers did, so do you. ⁵²Which of the prophets did your fathers not persecute? And they killed those who announced beforehand the coming of the Righteous One, whom you have now betrayed and murdered, ⁵³you who received the law as delivered by angels and did not keep it.”

⁵⁴Now when they heard these things they were enraged, and they ground their teeth at him. ⁵⁵But he, full of the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. ⁵⁶And he said, “Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God.” ⁵⁷But they cried out with a loud voice and stopped their ears and rushed together at him. ⁵⁸Then 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. ⁵⁹And as they were stoning Stephen, he called out, “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.” ⁶⁰And 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.

^{8:1}And Saul approved of his execution. And there arose on that day a great persecution against the church in Jerusalem, and they were all scattered throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria, except the apostles.² Devout men buried Stephen and made great lamentation over him. ³But Saul was ravaging the church, and entering house after house, he dragged off men and women and committed them to prison.⁴ Now those who were scattered went about preaching the word. ⁵Philip went down to the city of Samaria and proclaimed to them the Christ. ⁶And the crowds with one accord paid attention to what was being said by Philip, when they heard him and saw the signs that he did. ⁷For unclean spirits, crying out with a loud voice, came out of many who had them, and many who were paralyzed or lame were healed. ⁸So there was much joy in that city.

Trusting in Every Circumstance

Acts 7:51-8:8

Todd Chapman - August 20, 2017

God wants us to trust Him in all circumstances. Luke, in order to encourage our trust in God, writes to help us embrace the truth that God works in ways that we would never choose to fulfill His loving plan.

- We can trust that God uses all circumstances to promote the gospel.
- Our trusting God in difficult circumstances vividly displays the power of the gospel to others.
- Wherever we go, Jesus and the gospel go too, and there is always joy.

Questions for Discussion:

Notes:

Acts 7:51-8:8

What does it mean?

1. Where have we been thus far in the series?
2. How does the theme "trusting in every circumstance" fit into the overall scheme of the series?
3. Read Acts 6:3-8, how does Luke describe Stephen?
4. What does Luke tell us about Stephen's response to the angry mob in vs.55-60?
5. What is the result of Stephen's death for the Jerusalem church (in 8:1-2)?

How does it apply?

1. Why is it difficult for us to trust in God's provision during difficult circumstances?
2. In what ways do we functionally deny the truth of Stephen's story when we meet difficult circumstances or struggle in our Ongoing Spiritual Transformation process?
3. Trusting God's provision in tough times does not mean the absence of grief – so what does it look like?
4. How have you grown in your ability to trust in the hard times?
5. What would help you to keep growing in this area?