



The Church in Acts

Week 5: Deception Within; Opposition Without
Acts 5 and 6

Pastor Emeritus Mark Petersburg - Reston Bible Church - Sunday, February 9, 2025

The background consists of horizontal wooden planks. The top portion of the image is illuminated with a warm, orange-gold light, which fades into a darker, blue-black color towards the bottom. The planks are arranged in a staggered pattern, creating a textured, rustic appearance.

The Church in Acts: Foundation for Mission and Community

“But you will receive **power** when the **Holy Spirit** has come upon you, and you will be my **witnesses** in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

Acts 1:8 ESV

Now the full number of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one said that any of the things that belonged to him was his own, but they had everything in common.

Acts 4:32 ESV

And with great power the apostles were giving their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. There was not a needy person among them, for as many as were owners of lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold and laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.

Thus Joseph, who was also called by the apostles Barnabas (which means son of encouragement), a Levite, a native of Cyprus, sold a field that belonged to him and brought the money and laid it at the apostles' feet.

Acts 4:33-37 ESV

**And great fear came upon the whole church
and upon all who heard of these things.**

Acts 5:11 ESV

Then they left the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer dishonor for the name. And every day, in the temple and from house to house, they did not cease teaching and preaching that the Christ is Jesus.

Acts 5:41-42 ESV

1) The Emotional Flow

**By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples....
If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.**

John 15:8, 10-11 ESV

2) The Authority of the Apostles

3) The Emphasis of the Gospel

Now in these days when the disciples were increasing in number, a complaint by the Hellenists arose against the Hebrews because their widows were being neglected in the daily distribution.

Acts 6:1 ESV

And the Twelve summoned the full number of the disciples and said, “It is not right that we should give up preaching the word of God to serve tables. Therefore, brothers and sisters, pick out from among you seven men of good repute, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we will appoint to this duty. But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word.”

And what they said pleased the whole gathering, and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, and Philip, and Prochorus, and Nicanor, and Timon, and Parmenas, and Nicolaus, a proselyte of Antioch. These they set before the apostles, and they prayed and laid their hands on them.

Acts 6:2-6 ESV

**And the word of God continued to increase,
and the number of disciples multiplied greatly
in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests
became obedient to the faith.**

Acts 6:7 ESV

And Stephen, full of grace and power, was doing great wonders and signs among the people. Then some...rose up and disputed with Stephen. But they could not withstand the wisdom and the Spirit with which he was speaking. Then they secretly instigated men who said, "We have heard him speak blasphemous words against Moses and God."

And they stirred up the people and the elders and the scribes, and they came upon him and seized him and brought him before the council, and they set up false witnesses who said, “This man never ceased to speak words against this holy place and the law, for we have heard him say that this Jesus of Nazareth will destroy this place and will change the customs that Moses delivered to us.”

**gazing at him, all who sat in the council saw
that his face was like the face of an angel.**

Acts 6:8-15 ESV

1) Joseph's brothers

2) The Golden Calf

**Come, make us gods who shall go before us.
As for this Moses, the man who brought us up
out of the land of Egypt, we do not know what
has become of him.**

Exodus 32:1 ESV

3) The Emphasis of the Gospel

You shall have no other gods before me.

Exodus 20:3 ESV

You shall not make for yourself a carved image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. You shall not bow down to them or serve them....

Exodus 20:4-5 ESV

Little children, keep yourselves from idols.

1 John 5:21 ESV

4) The Son of Man

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.”

Acts 7:54-56 ESV

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 7:57-60 ESV

**Watch over your heart with all diligence for
from it flow the springs of life.**

Proverbs 4:23 NASB

**Guard your heart above all else for it
determines the course of your life.**

Proverbs 4:23 NLT

Grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be the glory both now and to the day of eternity. Amen.

2 Peter 3:18 ESV