





WE ARE  
*Called*

The Church Expands  
05.15.22 | Pastor Randy  
Acts 6:2

## discuss:

**Read Acts 5:1-11. Phrase in your own words the story of Ananias and Sapphira. What does it mean to lie to God? How is that different than lying to man?** Note: The heart is the center of the issue, not the tongue. **Have you ever lied to God? If God is TRUTH, how much of a lie can He be comfortable with?**

God worked many mighty miracles through the apostles; **read Acts 5:12-16. Why was it important for the people to see that the power of God was upon these men? How did it relate to their witnessing of Jesus and sharing His teaching/Word? How did these miracles join with the significance of faith?**

**Read Romans 10:17. Now read Hebrews 11. Explain in your own words the power of faith and the necessity for mighty works to be seen/witnessed.**

**Read Acts 5:17-42. If you had been released from prison, would you have returned to the Temple to teach/preach or would you have run away to hide from the authorities?** Notice verse 28: you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching. They were telling everyone about Jesus and His teachings. The Word of Jesus was penetrating Jerusalem. As you read the culture of the early church (Acts 2:42-47), being devoted to the Apostle's teaching was listed first; in other words, the Words of Jesus were placed with top priority. To the point, that the religious leaders wanted to kill the apostles (v. 33).

**How important is the Word of God in your life? In your conversations? In your teachings?** The disciples claim to obey God rather than man (v. 29) was obedience to the Word, not just convenience or conviction. Notice verse 42, And every day, in the temple and from house to house, they did not cease teaching and preaching that the Christ is Jesus.

**Read Acts 6:1-7.** The outreach of the Church is expanding, thus others are called to serve. This calling of seven men is the first group of deacons. They are called to serve the needs of the Church and community so that the apostles could devote themselves to ministering the Word and prayer. We often like to prioritize the importance of one ministry over another, but all are important for the Church to function.

**Read Romans 12, I Corinthians 12, and Ephesians 4:1-16. How has God called you to serve in His Church? What are your gifts? Are you willing to step out of your comfort zone into His calling to serve as His Church?**



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**Read Acts 6:8-15.** Notice these things about Stephen, full of grace and truth; the wisdom and the Spirit with which he was speaking; his face was like the face of an angel. Wow! That describes a man that was filled with the Holy Spirit. **How does it compare to describing you? Which area needs the most yielding/obedience?**

Those that opposed Stephen had to resort to lies and deception in order to bring any charges against him. The enemy never plays fair, but God knows the heart. Remember what Jesus said in Matthew 5:10-12, that we are blessed when people persecute us falsely. Stephen's ministry for Jesus was short-lived (spoiler alert: he dies in chapter 7), but His influence was powerful and persuasive (the apostle Paul is affected by Stephen's testimony). **How does your testimony impact/influence others?** You don't have to be a pastor to influence the city/state/nation/world; you just have to be obedient to Holy Spirit!