

THE MISSION OF THE CHURCH  
(ACTS 7-9)  
APRIL 19, 2026



The mission of the Church is taking the message of Jesus to the world. The Church is not merely a gathering, it is a sent people!

Truth must always be the foundation of the mission. Church - Truth = Cult

Stephen is a great example of someone unwilling to compromise the truth so people can hear the Truth through Holy Spirit

Early Christians under Roman persecution refused to burn incense to Caesar under threat of death, but rather confessed Jesus is Lord and the Church GREW!

### **1. The Mission Advances through Conflict**

- A great conflict caused a great call to preach the Good News (Gospel)
- Conflict often opens hearts for hope which can only be found in Jesus
- The mission does not advance through counterfeit confessions but only through contrite belief
- The power of the Gospel changes lives or reveals wickedness. We must make sure to let the Word do the work and not try to control the response.

### **2. The Mission Advances against Cultural and Social Barriers**

- The places of our mission may be dry but that doesn't mean there isn't a harvest
- The people of our mission may be outside our culture, but that doesn't mean they won't be family
- The Word dictates the next step. Sometimes we need to be still and allow Holy Spirit to work.
- Ethiopia contributes its Christian heritage today to this moment in Acts!

### **3. The Mission Advances by the Call of Jesus**

- A person's past does not alienate them from the call of God
- It must be Jesus that calls anyone to salvation, not just man's invitation
- The Lord works through man to bring others to salvation
  - The Mission Advances through Changed Lives
    - From Stephen to Philip to Paul to Peter, the Gospel went forth in all cultures and circumstances, so that the Church grew rather than diminish.

Journey's Mission: Introduce people to Jesus (Evangelism) and help them follow Him (Equip);  
How are you contributing to fulfilling the mission?

1. Read Acts 7:51-53; Isaiah 6:9-10; Jeremiah 6:10; John 3:19-20; 2 Timothy 4:3-4.

Why was Stephen's message so offensive to his audience, and what does this teach us about the nature of Biblical truth today? What impact did spiritual stubbornness, rejection of God's proclaimers, and guilt have in people's response? How was this similar to the people of the OT? Has there been a time when you didn't want to hear truth? Explain.

2. Read Acts 8:1-4; Genesis 50:20; Romans 8:28; Philippians 1:12-14; 1 Peter 4:12-13.

How does persecution in Acts 8:1-4 actually advance the gospel rather than hinder it? What are some other examples of God using difficult times to bless His people? What promises can you hold on to today to guide you through trials?

3. Read Acts 8:26-40; Isaiah 53:7-8; Matthew 28:19-20; Romans 10:14-17; Colossians 4:5-6.

What does Philip's interaction with the Ethiopian eunuch teach you about personal evangelism? What is your responsibility in sharing the Gospel? What are some ways that you can share the Gospel today that are effective and personal?

4. Read Acts 9:1-31; 1 Timothy 1:15-16; Ezekiel 36:26-27; Galatians 1:15-16; John 6:44.

Why is Saul's conversion such a powerful example of God's grace? How would you describe Saul's transformation? How does it compare to yours? What are some things that are good to sharing testimonies and what are some things you have to guard against? (Hint: comparing depths of sin)

5. Write out your testimony, simply in your own words.

Your testimony is something NO ONE can dispute or deny.

Now read Psalm 66:16; Mark 5:19; 1 Peter 3:15; Revelation 12:11.

6. What are some barriers (cultural, personal, spiritual) that might be preventing you from fully participating in the mission of sharing the Gospel with the world?

Read Jonah 1:1-3; Acts 10:34-35; 2 Corinthians 5:18-20; Hebrews 12:1-2.

Explain how these verses reveal barriers and which one relates best to you.

7. Pray and ask the Lord to give you a greater passion for sharing the Gospel with others.

Matthew 9:37-38, "He said to his disciples, The harvest is great but the workers are few. So pray to the Lord who is in charge of the harvest; ask him to send more workers into his fields."