

8:1 And Saul approved of their killing him.

The leaders charged Stephen with blasphemy and stoned him to death. Blasphemy means to speak against something in a disrespectful way. Stephen was accused of speaking against the Temple. Though Stephen did no wrong, his words of truth led to his death. While you may not be stoned or killed for speaking the truth about God, you may face anger and resistance. Do not let that sway you; stand firm in your faith.

What I Have Learned

Are the following true or false?

1. _____ Stephen said that the Jewish leaders resisted the Holy Spirit.
2. _____ Stephen said that the leaders had killed Jesus.
3. _____ The leaders agreed with Stephen and released him.
4. _____ Stephen was charged with theft.
5. _____ Stephen looked up and saw Abraham standing at the right hand of God.
6. _____ The leaders took Stephen out of the city and stoned him.
7. _____ Stephen asked God to forgive them.
8. _____ Stephen survived.

Keep In Mind

“While they were stoning him, Stephen prayed, ‘Lord Jesus, receive my spirit’”
(Acts 7:59, NIV).

Choosing What’s Best

Think about the sacrifice Stephen made in today’s lesson. Then read the list below of things you might have to sacrifice by standing up for your belief in God. Rate the things on the list from 1–5. 1 is the hardest to give up, 5 is the easiest.

- _____ Invitations to parties
- _____ Friends
- _____ Acceptance into the lunch group at school
- _____ Being picked to play on teams
- _____ Being included in conversations on the bus

Doing My Part

Your challenge this week is to be a peaceful and bold witness for Christ regardless of the cost. Remember, you can ask the Holy Spirit to help you, and God will surely be pleased.

full of bitterness and captive to sin.” **24** Then Simon answered, “Pray to the Lord for me so that nothing you have said may happen to me.”

Peter boldly called Simon to repentance. He explained that money could not buy the gifts of God. Even asking for such a thing showed that Simon's heart was sinful. He wanted power for the wrong reasons, and God considered his sinful heart wicked. Simon understood. He asked Peter to pray for him.

What I Have Learned

What happened first? Number the events in the correct order.

_____ Peter stated that the Holy Spirit cannot be bought.

_____ Peter and John prayed for the new believers to receive the Holy Spirit.

Philip proclaimed the kingdom of God through Jesus Christ.

_____ Simon asked for Peter's help in repentance.

_____ Simon also believed, was baptized,
and followed Philip.

_____ Many people believed in Christ.

_____ Peter told Simon to repent of sin and that God would forgive him.

_____ Simon offered to pay for the ability to give others the Holy Spirit.

_____ Simon amazed people with magic and sorcery.

_____ Simon's actions showed his heart was sinful.

Keep In Mind

*“When Simon saw that the Spirit was given at the laying on of the apostles’ hands, he offered them money”
(Acts 8:18, NIV).*

Choosing What's Best

Why should people follow Christ? Create a list of reasons below.

[illegible]

Doing My Part

Your challenge this week is to be an observer. Find two examples of ways people use money or influence in the wrong way and two examples of people who use money or influence in a godly way. Be ready to report your findings next week.

The Ethiopian wanted to be baptized. He wanted to let everyone know that he was now a believer in Christ. What may have happened had Philip not been open to helping him?

Circle the correct answer.

- ## Keep In Mind

Choosing What's Best

[illegible]

Your challenge this week is to reflect on your answer in the “Choosing What’s Best” section. Develop a strategy to be more open to all people, and help your church do the same.