

"TELLING THE TRUTH"

Acts 7:54-8:3

The church in Jerusalem is doing well. They are growing numerically and spiritually despite the persecution they endured. However, they are still localized in Jerusalem and haven't begun the mission to the nations. What will it take to get them out of Jerusalem? The answer is Stephen – a powerhouse for the Lord who became the 1st martyr.

#1. TELLING GOSPEL TRUTH MUST BE DONE WITH _____
_____, vv. 51-53

- A. Stephen is calling the Sanhedrin to account
- B. Stephen is speaking their language from the Scripture
- C. Stephen pulled no punches – brutal honesty

#2. TELLING GOSPEL TRUTH CAN EVOKE _____ IN
UNBELIEVING _____, vv. 54-60

- A. There are levels of spiritual receptivity, Mark 4:1-20, John 16:8
- B. The harder the heart the more hostile the response
- C. They covered their ears – truth is hard to hear
- D. The Sanhedrin became a lynch mob

#3. TELLING GOSPEL TRUTH IS ACCOMPANIED BY JESUS'
_____, vv. 55-56

- A. Jesus' position validates his resurrection & all his claims
- B. Jesus is standing as judge
- C. Jesus is standing to honor Stephen

#4. TELLING GOSPEL TRUTH CAN BE _____ – THE FIRST
MARTYR, vv. 59-60

- A. He prays to Jesus, trusting Him with his spirit.
- B. He mirrors Christ, forgiving his executioners.
- C. His final words testify of grace even in death.

#5. TELLING GOSPEL TRUTH IS FACILITATED BY
_____ – SAUL OF TARSUS, vv. 1-3

- A. Saul of Tarsus approved of the killing
- B. Saul was the instigator of a great persecution
- C. Saul was the catalyst of a church planting program
- D. Saul got the church out of Jerusalem

NOTES:

ANNOUNCEMENTS

TODAY

Pastor Bruce is continuing the series in the book of Acts, focusing on Stephen – the first martyr.

NEXT WEEK

Woody is bringing an inspiring message, and God's people will gather at the Table to celebrate the Lord's supper.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING OCTOBER 5 @ 6:30 – 7:30

Everyone who calls Hillcrest Church their home is invited to attend a meeting Sunday evening to discuss the future of Hillcrest Church. The district superintendent, Rob Douglas, will be with us. We will also briefly discuss the results of the congregational interaction held a while back.

LOVE OFFERING & FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Last week the love offering we took for Timothy & Jessica Chapmen totaled \$575. We are keeping the option open for 2 more weeks to give online or at the church. Write Chapman in the memo of your check. You can place your offering at the SPOT.

LIFE GROUPS

- ♣ The Life Group studying the gospel of Mark will meet at the Hallsten's house at 7pm in Roseville. Everyone is invited!
- ♣ Pastor Bruce is teaching a group Sunday morning at 9 – 10 on Boundaries. This is a practical study on forming proper boundaries in relationships. Everyone is invited.
- ♣ Online Tuesday at 7pm prayer and study for everyone!

FALL FESTIVAL

Please donate wrapped candy and consider volunteering to help with our annual Halloween Fall Festival. Sign up at the SPOT.

OUTREACH COMMITTEE MONDAY AT 8PM ON ZOOM

Welcome to Hillcrest Church Generation Next, 2025 & Beyond!

*But Stephen, full of the Holy Spirit, looked up to
heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus
standing at the right hand of God.*

Acts 7:55

*September 28, 2025
Pastor Bruce Guckelberg, PhD*