

HOW REVIVAL ACTS

Acts 7:54-60



FIRED UP

Acts 7:54 When they heard these things, they were cut to the heart, and they gnashed on him with *their* teeth.

55 But he, being full of the Holy Ghost, looked up stedfastly into heaven, and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing on the right hand of God,

56 And said, Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of man standing on the right hand of God.

57 Then they cried out with a loud voice, and stopped their ears, and ran upon him with one accord,

58 And cast *him* out of the city, and stoned *him*: and the witnesses laid down their clothes at a young man's feet, whose name was Saul.

59 And they stoned Stephen, calling upon *God*, and saying, Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.

60 And he kneeled down, and cried with a loud voice, Lord, lay not this sin to their charge. And when he had said this, he fell asleep.

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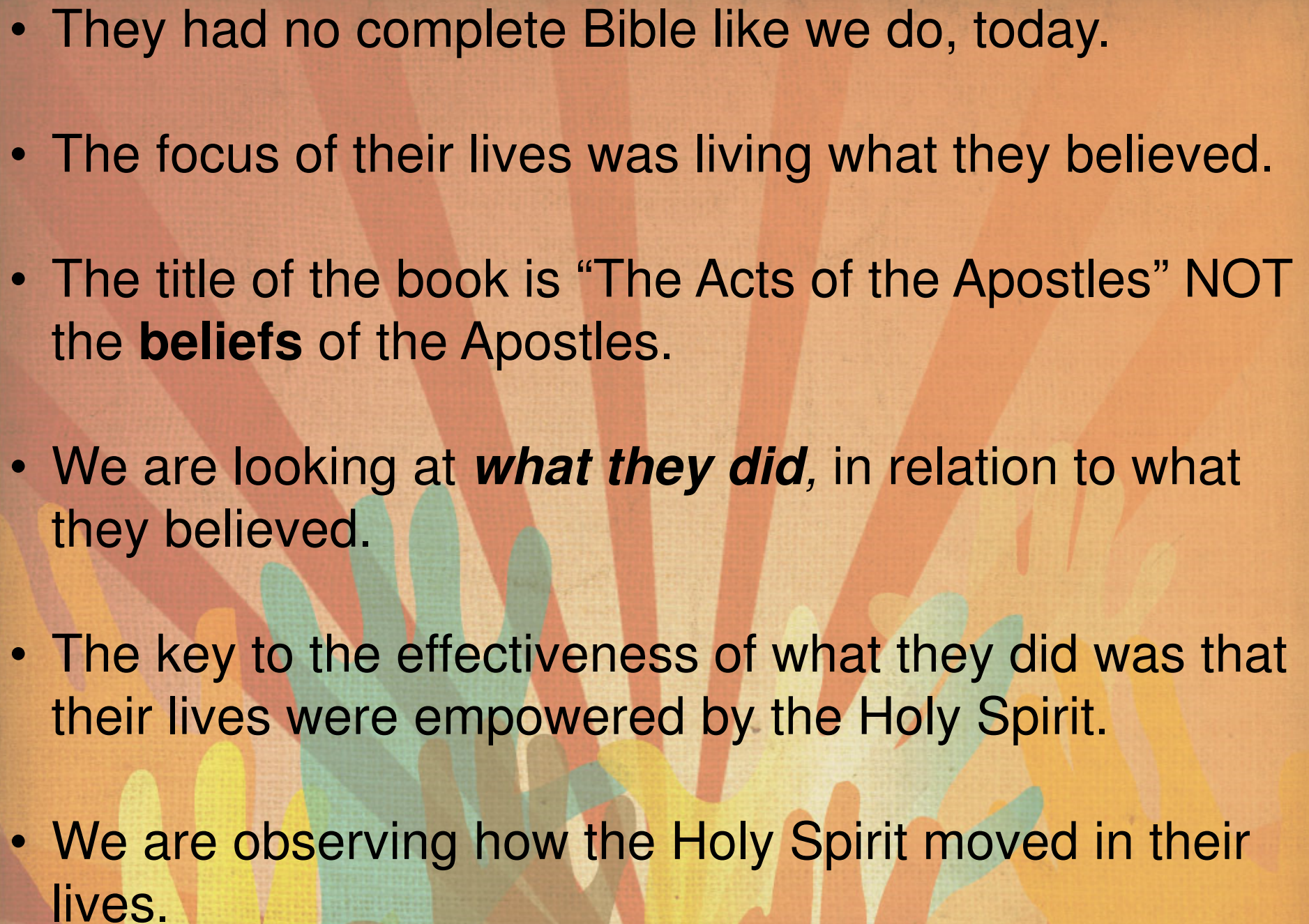
i. They Had Accused Him of Reviling the Holy Place – He Accused Them of Resisting the Holy Ghost, 7:51

ii. They Had Accused Him of Slighting Moses, the Man of God – He Accused Them of Slaying Jesus, the Messiah of God, 7:52

iii. They Had Accused Him of Blaspheming the Law – He Accused Them of Breaking the Law, 7:53

As we continue looking at the Book of Acts, we need to be reminded of the scenario of the first church:

- The apostles had spent three years of preparation with the Lord Jesus Christ in order to serve Him for His glory.
- They were unclear about the establishing of His Kingdom.
- The Lord had ascended back to heaven.
- The Holy Spirit was their primary source of leadership.
- The organization for their actions was the first church.

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- The background of the slide features a warm, orange-toned gradient. Overlaid on this are several stylized handprints in various colors, including shades of green, yellow, and brown. From the center of the composition, several bright, radiating lines of light extend outwards, creating a sunburst effect. The overall aesthetic is one of hope and community.
- They had no complete Bible like we do, today.
 - The focus of their lives was living what they believed.
 - The title of the book is “The Acts of the Apostles” NOT the **beliefs** of the Apostles.
 - We are looking at ***what they did***, in relation to what they believed.
 - The key to the effectiveness of what they did was that their lives were empowered by the Holy Spirit.
 - We are observing how the Holy Spirit moved in their lives.

3. Stephen, the Triumphant Warrior, 7:54-60

a. His Convicting Voice, 7:54

Acts 7:54 When they heard these things, they were cut to the heart, and they gnashed on him with *their* teeth.

Original Word: διαπρίω

Transliteration: diapriō

Definition: (lit: I saw through), I cut to the quick (with indignation and envy).

diapriō (from *diá*, "through" and *priō*, "cut with a saw") – properly, cut all the way through; (figuratively) emotionally "sawn asunder," as when the heart is "ripped in two" ("cut to the quick") – i.e. when a person is "split down the center" (emotionally) when overcome with indignation (envy, outrage). <http://biblehub.com/greek/1282.htm>

Acts 5:33 When they heard *that*, they were cut *to the heart*, and took counsel to slay them.

All Greek texts are the same, however, not all English texts are the same:

New International Version

When the members of the Sanhedrin heard this, they were furious and gnashed their teeth at him.

New American Standard Bible

Now when they heard this, they were cut to the quick, and they began gnashing their teeth at him.

Holman Christian Standard Bible

When they heard these things, they were enraged **in their hearts** and gnashed their teeth at him.

King James Bible

When they heard these things, **they were cut to the heart**, and they gnashed on him with *their* teeth.

Luke 13:28 There shall be weeping and **gnashing of teeth**, when ye shall see Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, and all the prophets, in the kingdom of God, and you *yourselves* thrust out.

b. His Complete Vindication, 7:55

Acts 7:55 But he, **being full of the Holy Ghost**, looked up stedfastly into heaven, and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing on the right hand of God,

c. His Continuing Valor, 7:56-59

(1) His Final Testimony, 7:56

Acts 7:56 And said, Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of man standing on the right hand of God.

Psa. 110:1 **The LORD said unto my Lord, Sit thou at my right hand,** until I make thine enemies thy footstool.

Acts 2:34 For David is not ascended into the heavens: but he saith himself, **The LORD said unto my Lord, Sit thou on my right hand,**

Luke 22:69 Hereafter shall **the Son of man** sit on the right hand of the power of God.

1 Tim. 2:5 For *there is* one God, and **one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus;**

(2) His Final Trial, 7:57-58

(a) How They Stopped Him,
7:57

Acts 7:57 Then they cried out with a loud voice, and stopped their ears, and ran upon him with one accord,

There are three trials before the Sanhedrin that Luke recorded thus far:

1. The first ended with a threatening (4:17, 21)

Acts 4:17 But that it spread no further among the people, let us straitly threaten them, that they speak henceforth to no man in this name. ...

21 So when they had further threatened them, they let them go, finding nothing how they might punish them, because of the people: for all *men* glorified God for that which was done.

2. The second with beating (5:40)

Acts 5:40 And to him they agreed: and when they had called the apostles, and beaten *them*, they commanded that they should not speak in the name of Jesus, and let them go.

3. The third with stoning (7:58-60)

Acts 7:58 And cast *him* out of the city, and stoned *him*: and the witnesses laid down their clothes at a young man's feet, whose name was Saul.

59 And they stoned Stephen, calling upon *God*, and saying, Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.

60 And he kneeled down, and cried with a loud voice, Lord, lay not this sin to their charge. And when he had said this, he fell asleep.

(b) How They Stoned Him, 7:58

Acts 7:58 And cast *him* out of the city, and stoned *him*: and the witnesses laid down their clothes at a young man's feet, whose name was Saul.

Acts 13:9 Then Saul, (who also *is called Paul*,) filled with the Holy Ghost, set his eyes on him,

(3) His Final Triumph, 7:59

Acts 7:59 And they stoned Stephen, calling upon *God*, and saying, Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.

New International Version

While they were stoning him, Stephen prayed, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit."

New American Standard Bible

They went on stoning Stephen as he called on the Lord and said, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit!"

Holman Christian Standard Bible

They were stoning Stephen as he called out: "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit!"

King James Bible

And they stoned Stephen, **calling upon God**, and saying, Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.

<http://biblehub.com/acts/7-59.htm>

Luke 23:46 And when Jesus had cried with a loud voice, he said, **Father, into thy hands I commend my spirit:** and having said thus, he gave up the ghost.

d. His Crowning Victory, 7:60

Acts 7:60 And he kneeled down, and cried with a loud voice, **Lord, lay not this sin to their charge.** And when he had said this, he fell asleep.

Luke 6:27 But I say unto you which hear, **Love your enemies, do good to them** which hate you,
28 **Bless them** that curse you, and **pray for them** which despitefully use you.

Luke 23:34 **Then said Jesus, Father, forgive them;** for they know not what they do. And they parted his raiment, and cast lots.

Jn. 11:13 Howbeit **Jesus spake of his death:** but they thought that he had spoken of taking of rest **in sleep.**

1 Cor. 15:20 But now is Christ risen from the dead, *and* become the firstfruits of **them that slept.**

1 Thess. 4:14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so **them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him.**

Conclusion

Acts 2:4 “And **they were all filled with the Holy Ghost...**”

Acts 4:8 Then **Peter, filled with the Holy Ghost**, said unto them, Ye rulers of the people, and elders of Israel,
...

31 And when they had prayed, the place was shaken where they were assembled together; and **they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and they spake the word of God with boldness.**

Acts 9:31 Then had the churches rest throughout all Judaea and Galilee and Samaria, and were edified; and walking in the fear of the Lord, and in **the comfort of the Holy Ghost**, were multiplied.

Acts 6:3 Wherefore, brethren, look ye out among you seven men of honest report, **full of the Holy Ghost** and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business. ...
5 And the saying pleased the whole multitude: and they chose **Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Ghost**, and Philip, and Prochorus, and Nicanor, and Timon, and Parmenas, and Nicolas a proselyte of Antioch:

Acts 7:55 But he, **being full of the Holy Ghost**, looked up steadfastly into heaven, and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing on the right hand of God,

Acts 7:51 Ye stiffnecked and uncircumcised in heart and ears, **ye do always resist the Holy Ghost**: as your fathers *did*, so do ye.

Eph. 4:30 And **grieve not** the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption.

1 Thess. 5:19 **Quench not** the Spirit.

Zech. 4:6 "...Not by might, nor by power, but **by my spirit**, saith the LORD of hosts."

Acts 1:8 But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.

Rev. 2:10 Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer: behold, the devil shall cast *some* of you into prison, that ye may be tried; and ye shall have tribulation ten days: **be thou faithful unto death**, and I will give thee a **crown of life**.

Original Word: στέφανος

Transliteration: stephanos

Short Definition: a crown, garland

<http://biblehub.com/greek/4735.htm>