

Series: The Unstoppable Church

Title: Stand for Jesus, & Jesus will Stand for You!

Overview the situation: (Acts 6:3,5,8)

(Acts 6:9-10, 15)

Standing Alone!

Acts 7:54-60 Jesus stood for Stephen, b/c Stephen stood for Jesus

Why is this, a Big deal?

Jesus is spoken of as seated, or sitting in heaven.

This signifies that His work was completed.

(Matt 26:64) *Jesus saith unto him, Thou hast said: nevertheless I say unto you, Hereafter shall ye see the Son of man sitting on the right hand of power, and coming in the clouds of heaven.*

He sat down: His work on Calvary was finished

(Heb 10:12) *But this man, after he had offered one sacrifice for sins forever, sat down on the right hand of God;*

Physical picture of Calvary “*It IS Finished*”

Made the offering in heaven for our sins

(Heb 1:3) *Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, **sat down** on the right hand of the Majesty on high;*

*Jesus Stood up for Stephen, b/c Stephen Stood up for Jesus! - **He Stood for Jesus in Salvation:***

1st, You have to be saved

(Rom 8:9) *But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his.*

If we have the Spirit of Christ.

We become a partaker of the divine nature of Christ.

When we are saved, HE becomes the divine Resident
When we are filled He becomes the divine President!

Saved, but also...

(Acts 6:3) Full of the Holy Ghost!

The Secret to standing for Jesus is to be filled with the Holy Ghost.

To be Filled with the Holy Ghost is to Be Empty of
Self & Filled with God.

(Acts 6:3) Full Of Wisdom,

(Acts 6:8) Full of Faith!

(Acts 6:8) Full of Power!

1. To stand alone, we need to be Full of Wisdom to speak for Christ: (Acts 6:10) & *they were not able to resist the wisdom and the spirit by which he spake.*

It was not his knowledge, but his wisdom,

His message Reviewed bible history (Acts 7:1-36)

His Message was Christ Centered: (Acts 7:37).

(Acts 6:10) & they were **not able to resist the wisdom and the spirit** by which he spake.

It was a supernatural gift from God. (Lk 21:12-15)

Jesus foretold that this would happen.

Jesus will use this for his testimony.

Jesus said that this is for you! The Average Christian.

Settle it therefore... don't worry, God will give you the words when the time comes.

This scripture was fulfilled w/Steven, here in Acts 6.

2. To Stand Alone for Christ, We need to be Full of Power to stand (Acts 6:8) (Acts 7:51)

He was an ordinary Christian.

Courage is Fear that has said its prayers.

(Matt 10:28) *And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.*

If you will kneel b4 God, you can Stand b4 any man.

WE Must NOT be afraid.

Until you are ready to DIE, you are not truly ready LIVE.

Steven was an Ordinary man!

Steven was filled with the Holy Ghost!

Steven was Filled with Godly Wisdom!

3. To Stand Alone for Christ, We need to be Full of FAITH to Stand (Acts 6:8)

He had Faith to Suffer for Christ:

Faith doesn't get you OUT of difficulty, but INTO it. Jesus didn't come to KEEP you out of trouble, but to Get INTO trouble with you.

Faith doesn't ENABLE you to ESCAPE suffering.

Faith ENABLES you to ENDURE Suffering.

(Acts 7:57-59)

It costs to serve Jesus.

If you are looking for a cheap way, for easy way to serve Christ, you are out of luck.

“He was a such a great Christian why did he suffer”

The Great question is **NOT** *“Why do so some Christians Suffer!”*

The Real Question is: *“Why Some Christians Don't!*

(2 Tim 3:12) *Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution.*

If you're not suffering for Jesus, ask yourself why?

Everybody wants to Filled with the Spirit like Peter & get 3000 saved, but Steven was filled with the Spirit & got 3000 stones!

(Acts 6:8) Steven's Miracle working power did not keep him from suffering for Jesus.

The Word Witness and the Word Martyr are the same word in Greek. ~ *Maritoos*

(Acts 1:8) “*Witness*” - (Acts 22:20) “*Martyr*”
Steven was not a Martyr b/c he died for his faith.

Steven died because he was a Witness.

Persecution doesn't Make Martyrs, it only reveals them.

You are either a Martyr now, or you aren't.

(Acts 1:8) *Ye shall be witnesses unto me.*

(Heb 11:32-38) Amen all the way through 35, people died, tortured, mocked: ***“The Other Side of Faith”***

The Great Question is NOT,

DO you have faith to Escape?

The Great Question is, Do you have faith to Endure?

NOT, do you have faith to be Delivered?

The Great Question is, Do you have faith to DIE?

NOT, do you have faith to be healed and Praise God?

The Great Question is, Do you have faith to NOT be Healed and still praise God?

Faith is NOT receiving what you want from God.

Faith is Receiving what God gives you & still praising Him!

Jesus Stood up for Stephen, because Stephen Stood up for Jesus!

He stood for Jesus when He stood in place of Jesus.

How was Stephen like Jesus?

He also was a Jew

He also worshipped the Father in Heaven

He also was filled with the Holy Spirit (Ac 6:8)

He told them the truth of the Kingdom

He was persecuted by his own people

They put him on trial like Jesus

They didn't listen to him either

They killed him outside the city

He committed his spirit to God's keeping

He prayed for those that did it to him

He displayed no malice toward them

He didn't try and retaliate

Stephen was a lot like Jesus b/c He stood for Jesus

(Mat 12:30) *He that is not with me is against me; and he that gathereth not with me scattereth abroad.*

I thought He was an “all inclusive God”? HE is!

All who choose Him are equally Blessed w/ Heaven!

(Luke 9:26) *For whosoever shall be **ASHAMED** of me and of my words, of him shall the Son of man be **ASHAMED**, when he shall come in his own glory, and in his Father's, and of the holy angels.*

Whoa, that's pretty decisive!

Jesus STOOD up for Stephen, Because Stephen STOOD up for Jesus.

Are we ashamed of Him? Do you have Salvation remorse?

Like when you bought that car & realized you spent too much? Is it costing you too Much?

(Rom 1:16) *For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth; to the **Jew first, and also to the Greek.***

Illus: *No Thanks, I'm an Agnostic.*

They don't believe you can know

- A Self Proclaimed Ignoramus.

So you figure ignoring Him is the best option?

Ignorance is not a valid defense

(Rom 1:20) *For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are **without excuse:***

Well I am just not ready to Commit:

Illus: *So the plan is to burn the candle of life at both ends, and then Opting for the Deathbed Conversion?*

BASICALLY Blow the Candle Out in God's face?

Doesn't sound good when I say it like that, does it?
People Opting for the 11th hour, usually die @ 10:30

This is a Personal Choice -No one can do it for you

(Mat 27:22) *Pilate saith unto them, What shall I do then with Jesus which is called Christ?*

(John 3:18) *He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.*

You have to choose!

(Rev 3:20) *Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, & open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me.*

Whosoever -Anybody - (John 3:16)

(1 John 5:1) *Whosoever believeth that Jesus is the Christ is born of God: and every one that loveth him that begat loveth him also that is begotten of him.*

If you're a Whosoever then this promise is for you

Who are you standing with?

SPIRITUAL NEUTRALITY is not possible.

(Spiritual Switzerland)

(Matt 12:30) *He that is not with me is against me; and he that gathereth not with me scattereth abroad.*

Many think that b/c they are not decidedly opposing Christ, they are somehow acceptable to God.

The significance of the Lord's statement is that there is no such thing as neutrality w/ reference to Christ.

Either a man is wholly committed to Christ, or else he finds himself in total opposition to Him.
(Mat 7:13-14) *Straight is the gate & narrow is the way*
(John 14:6) *I am the way, the truth, and the life,*

Jesus Stood for Stephen, because Stephen was willing to stand for Jesus Publicly!

Not just in Salvation, But Baptism
Stephen Publicly Identified himself with Jesus!
(Acts 7:56) *And said, Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of man standing on the right hand of God.*

Getting saved is a private matter, but Baptism that's Public

(Exo 32:26) *Then Moses ... said, Who is on the LORD'S side? let him come unto me.*

Illus: Being ashamed of my Senior Citizen Parents

(Mat 12:30) *He that is not with me is against me & he that gathereth not with me scattereth abroad.*
Are you willing to STAND for Jesus in Baptism?

What will my family think?

(Matt 10:37) *He that loveth father or mother more than me is not worthy of me: and he that loveth son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me.*

You will not stand before your momma at the Judgment Seat

You will stand before Jesus, King of Kings, & Lord of Lords

But I don't want to be a religious fanatic!

Illus: Lets Define That!

*A Liberal is anyone, not as serious @ God as us;
A Religious Fanatic is anyone that is way more committed than us.*

Illus: What Jesus did was pretty fanatical!

What if Jesus had said, "Whoa, wait a minute, I don't want to go down in history as a religious fanatic!"

By our standards of commitment, He was.

*HE Was ALL IN, when it came to the Father!
There is no Middle ground with Christ!
He did not Waffle on the issue.*

Doesn't matter what my family will think?

What matters is, what will Jesus Think?

This is not a hard choice!

(Col 2:13-14) *And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, hath he quickened together with him, having forgiven you all trespasses; Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross;*

**He spent 3 hours on the cross in darkness,
He spent 3 days in hell, forsaken of God, rejected
by His own Creation;**

and we can't give Him more than 1 hours a week?

**This is not a hard choice,
The night I was saved, I paced the floor of our
apartment thinking, *Admit she was right, or spend
Eternity in Hell positive of it!***

**Momma didn't want me to be *Born Again,
Baptized, or Preach.***

But Momma didn't die for me.

**The day I submitted to baptism, I asked myself,
who am I going to stand with?**

**The day the Lord convicted me about how I was
living, I had to ask myself, Who I am going to
stand with?**

Budwieser, Marlboro, Playboy, HBO?

***You can't Sit on the fence, 1 foot in the world, & 1
in the Church.***

There is now mixing of the 2!

(2 Cor 6:14-18) *Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness? And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel? And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.*

Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you, And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty.

A Choice has to be made!

Jesus stood for Stephen, b/c Stephen Stood for Jesus.

Who are you standing with?

**Stephen Stood for Jesus when He witnessed of
Jesus:**

(Acts 7:52) *Which of the prophets have not your fathers persecuted? and they have slain them which shewed before of the coming of the Just One; of whom ye have been now the betrayers and murderers:*

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

Do your co-workers know we are standing with Christ?

Do your schoolmates know you are standing with Christ?

Have you shared your testimony with them?

This is a Personal Choice, and its a ...

This is a Family Choice b/c Your choices affect your entire Family.

(Josh 24:15) *Choose you this day whom ye will serve; ... but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.*

You Must choose for those who can't!

Or for those who don't know How.

Illus: Well I want my kids to make their own choice. I understand that it has to become their choice But...

You choose whether they go to school or not.

You choose whether they bath or not!

We have to choose for them until they mature to a place where they see the need for themselves.

Seems pretty idiotic to force them to be clean and educated, Just so the can be clean and articulate as they burn in hell!

Training is demonstrating WHY as well as HOW!

Choose for Others (Joel 3:14) *Multitudes, multitudes in the valley of decision: for the day of the LORD is near in the valley of decision.*

The least we can do is give them the pertinent information and an opportunity to make the Right Choice!

No text from the Holocaust is more often quoted than Martin Niemoller's confession of his moral failure during the 1930's:

- "First they came for the Communists, but I was not a Communist -- so I said nothing.
- Then they came for the Social Democrats, but I was not a Social Democrat -- so I did nothing.
- Then came the trade unionists, but I was not a trade unionist.
- And then they came for the Jews, but I was not a Jew -- so I did little.
- Then when they came for me, there was no one left who could stand up for me."

(James 1:12) (Rev 2:10) The Crown of Life!

Stand Up, Stand UP for Jesus

The Strife will not be long.

Today the Noise of Battle, the Next, The Victor's song!

(Acts 7:58) Martyr and Witness are the Same Thing!
Saul Never got over that Moment.
Saul never found Rest until he rested in Jesus.

(Acts 9:5) Th Pricks ~ The Ox Goads.
The Conviction of the Holy Spirit.

(Acts 22:20) *And when the blood of thy martyr Stephen was shed, I also was standing by, and consenting unto his death, and kept the raiment of them that slew him.*

The greatest Missionary and Theologian the world has ever known received Everlasting Life from the Witness/Martyr of Steven!

Who will find Christ Through your Suffering?
Who has found Christ through your Comfortable Life?
Who has found Christ through your Casual Faith?
Who has found Christ through your Convenient Worship?

Jesus Stood for Steven, b/c Steven Stood for Jesus

Who are you standing for?
Who are you standing with?
Who are you encouraging to stand with you?