

## **Acts, Part 07**

by Bishop Keith Butler | Bible Study Notes | Ministered Wed., 6/17/20

### **Introduction Summary**

This lesson covers **Acts 6:1 – 8:20**. We will see how strife can stop a move of God and open the door for persecution to come into the body of Christ. Strife occurs when brothers and sisters in Christ do not act in love toward one another. Also, we will look at the way the Spirit of God will move, not only through five-fold ministers, but through believers who are willing to be used by Him.

- I. **Acts 6:1:** Strife was stirred up between the Grecians and the Hebrews.
  - A. The Grecians were Greek speaking Jews.
  - B. The Hebrews were the Jews in Jerusalem.
  - C. Satan remembered what Jesus said about division (Mark 3:25).
  - D. Scientists proved that all people are the same, on the inside.
  
- II. **Acts 6:2:** The strife issue became massive.
  - A. Every great move of God was ended with strife.
    1. We can find God's view on strife in 1 Cor. 11:27-29.
    2. Christians are the Lord's body (Eph. 1:22).
  - B. **Acts 6:3:** Selecting deacons to help ended the strife.
  - C. **Acts 6:5-7:** They chose people who were full of the Holy Ghost (1 Tim. 3:8-13).
  
- III. **Acts 6:7:** The word increased *in Jerusalem*:
  - A. Jesus told them to take the gospel to the world (Acts 1:8).
  - B. Success is not the size of a church, but doing God's will.
  - C. Their disobedience opened the door for satan.
  
- IV. **Acts 6:8-15:** People came against Stephen, but he stayed in the peace of God.
  - A. **Acts 7:1-51:** Stephen testifies about the history behind this move of God.
  - B. **Acts 7:52-54:** They struck out at the ones who brought the truth.
  - C. **Acts 7:55-56:** Stephen saw Jesus standing at the right hand of God (Heb. 10:12).
  - D. **Acts 7:57:** They stoned Stephen to death.
  - E. **Acts 7:58:** Saul was a leader among the people.
  - F. **Acts 7:59-60:** Stephen was stoned calling upon God and forgiving those who threw the stones. He was filled with God's love.

- V. **Acts 8:1:** Saul agreed with Stephen's stoning. The disciples scattered because of the persecution (Acts 1:8). They were slow to do God's will.
- A. Jesus said persecution would come (Mark 4:13-17).
    1. *Affliction* (Gk. *thlipsis*) means persecution or pressure through circumstances, trouble or tribulation.
    2. *Offended* (Gk. *skandalizo*) means to stumble or fall away from sin.
    3. Trials don't come to make you strong (Jer. 29:11).
    4. Trials come to destroy you. That's Satan's goal (John 10:10).
  - B. **Acts 8:3:** Saul had a level of authority.
  - C. **Acts 8:4:** The disciples went everywhere preaching the gospel.
- VI. **Acts 8:5:** Philip, the deacon, acted on Mark 16:17.
- A. **Acts 8:9-12:** Simon, a sorcerer, told the people about Philip.
  - B. They believed the Word of God and were baptized. After that, Simon believed.
  - C. Witchcraft is satanic. The horoscope is satanic. The Word of God is the only power that comes from God. (Acts 2:38).
  - D. Everything supernatural isn't necessarily of God.
  - E. Faith doesn't come by seeing miracles, but by hearing the Word of God.
- VII. **Acts 8:14-17:** The Apostles heard about Samaria accepting the Word of God.
- A. Peter and John were sent to tell them about the Holy Ghost (Holy Spirit) Baptism.
  - B. **Acts 8:18:** Simon saw what was seen in Acts 2:1-4 and wanted to buy the power of God.
    1. You can't buy or earn a gift. You simply receive a gift.
    2. If you haven't yet been baptized with the Holy Ghost, you can receive the baptism today.
    3. God will give you the Holy Spirit, if you ask (Luke 11:11-13).
    4. Lift your hands. Ask God to fill you with His Spirit, and receive Him.

### Closing Summary

It is vital that Christians walk in love toward one another. That love is what keeps strife out and opens the door for God to do miraculous things in the body of Christ. When you're filled with the Holy Ghost, you can experience miracles working for you and through you, just as they worked in Philip's life. As a result, you can be a more effective witness to the world about salvation through Jesus Christ.