

In Acts 7:51 Stephen accuses the Council of “resisting the Holy Spirit.” What were they doing to “resist the Spirit,” and what would have been needed to stop resisting?

Salvation is often seen as having sins forgiven. If we thought of it as an invitation to partner with God in transforming the world, would it feel different? Why or why not?

### Prayer Requests

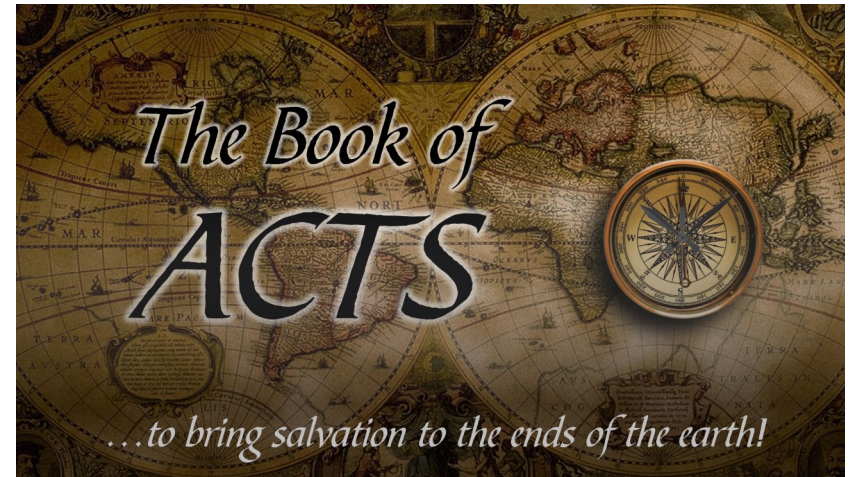
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**October 23, 2022/Acts – Part 9**

### Scripture References

Acts 6 & 7 • John 15:18 • James 4:14

Ephesians 3:10-11

- 1) Acts 6:1-15 is often considered the origin of the church office of \_\_\_\_\_, although the seven men chosen are never actually called by that term.
- 2) The Greek word for Deacon, “*diakonia*,” is used in Acts 6:1 to describe the distribution of food - an \_\_\_\_\_, not a \_\_\_\_\_.
- 3) “*diakonia*” = \_\_\_\_\_, ministering, especially of those who execute the commands of others.

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- 4) The story of Stephen illustrates the \_\_\_\_\_ and detail of God's plan and the impact it can have on individual lives.
- 5) The job of a servant is to set aside \_\_\_\_\_ and accomplish what the master wants them to do.
- 6) Stephen and the others became \_\_\_\_\_ because they placed their commitment to the things of God above everything else; recognizing what God was doing in the world and wanting to be \_\_\_\_\_ of it.
- 7) Stephen started his \_\_\_\_\_ with Abraham, the Father of the Jewish people, and brought it full-circle back to Jesus, the Righteous One—the Messiah.
- 8) A problem for many Christians is that we look at ourselves instead of looking at God and \_\_\_\_\_. We look at what we want, instead of looking at what God is doing.
- 9) God is changing earth and heaven through the church, healing the world by healing the \_\_\_\_\_ inside individuals.



### **Small Group Discussion Questions**

Please try to think these over and jot down some ideas prior to discussing them at the meeting, it will improve the discussion.

If you have spent time in a church with deacons, describe what they did and how they served or ministered to the congregation.

The Greek word *diakonia* can refer to actions or people. It is not always translated as “deacon.” In the following references *diakonia* is used but translated differently. See if you can find it.  
Hebrews 1:14— Acts 11:29—Romans 11:13

In Acts 6:9-14, why were those from “the Synagogue of Freedmen” so hostile towards Stephen? Have you seen similar hostility towards believers today?

Continued on reverse.