

Acts 7:1-51

Stephen was full of the Spirit, but falsely accused.

When confronted about what you believe, trust the Holy Spirit it give you words to say.

- Luke 21:12-15 “12 “But before all this occurs, there will be a time of great persecution. You will be dragged into synagogues and prisons, and you will stand trial before kings and governors because you are my followers. 13 But this will be your opportunity to tell them about me. 14 So don't worry in advance about how to answer the charges against you, 15 for I will give you the right words and such wisdom that none of your opponents will be able to reply or refute you!”

Do you know the story of God?

You know God by reading the story of God.

How to (NOT) read the Bible:

- 1) like it's a manual, roadmap, science book, unreliable document or irrelevant
- 2) like it's a story about you and you're the hero
- 3) like it's only a theological treatise
- 4) like it's written to you, today
- 5) like it's the ultimate argument trump card
- 6) like an American

[2 Timothy 3:16–17](#) (ESV) — All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, ¹⁷ that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.

When you read the Bible, read it aloud and slowly.

When you read the Bible, know what genre you are reading.

*For PROPresenter: image of Bible Library

When you read the Bible, know where in the storyline you are reading.

*For PROPresenter: image of Bible Storyline

When you read the Bible, read the context not an isolated verse.

When you read the Bible, read with curiosity and community.

When you read the Bible, look for truth about God.

[Ephesians 4:11-16](#) “11 Now these are the gifts Christ gave to the church: the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, and the pastors and teachers. 12 Their responsibility is to equip God’s people to do his work and build up the church, the body of Christ. 13 This will continue until we all come to such unity in our faith and knowledge of God’s Son that we will be mature in the Lord, measuring up to the full and complete standard of Christ. 14 Then we will no longer be immature like children. We won’t be tossed and blown about by every wind of new teaching. We will not be influenced when people try to trick us with lies so clever they sound like the truth. 15 Instead, we will speak the truth in love, growing in every way more and more like Christ, who is the head of his body, the church. 16 He makes the whole body fit together perfectly. As each part does its own special work, it helps the other parts grow, so that the whole body is healthy and growing and full of love.”

What we behold, we become.

PRACTICING THE WAY

As disciples of Jesus, we know our allegiance to Him as King is expressed in our daily practice. We are not pursuing perfection but want to practice our faith each day. These practices will point you toward spiritual formation as an apprentice (disciple) to Jesus.

Start the Fresh Start Pathway with a friend.

Join a Connect Group.

Talk it Over (with friends, a spouse, or connect group)

- Read Acts 7:1-11. What do you notice within this passage?
- What was one takeaway from the message on Sunday?

- If you had to summarize the story of the Bible, how would you summarize it?
- Read 2 Timothy 3:16. What is this verse telling us about God?
- When you read the Bible, read it to understand God. Why does this way of reading Scripture matter so much?
- Read Ephesians 4:11-16. What are some observations from this passage?
- What would it look like if Jesus were living your life? What one area of your life needs to move toward looking more like Jesus and less like you?