

### Encounter these verses today:

circle words that you identify with, underline phrases or sentences you'd like to remember, write questions about the passage out to the side ...



### Acts 6, 7, 8 :: Stephen (NIV)

8 Now Stephen, a man full of God's grace and power, performed great wonders and signs among the people.9 Opposition arose, however, from members of the Synagogue of the Freedmen (as it was called)—Jews of Cyrene and Alexandria as well as the provinces of Cilicia and Asia—who began to argue with Stephen. 10 But they could not stand up against the wisdom the Spirit gave him as he spoke.

11 Then they secretly persuaded some men to say, "We have heard Stephen speak blasphemous words against Moses and against God."

12 So they stirred up the people and the elders and the teachers of the law. They seized Stephen and brought him before the Sanhedrin. 13 They produced false witnesses, who testified, "This fellow never stops speaking against this holy place and against the law. 14 For we have heard him say that this Jesus of Nazareth will destroy this place and change the customs Moses handed down to us."

15 All who were sitting in the Sanhedrin looked intently at Stephen, and they saw that his face was like the face of an angel.

**7:51** "You stiff-necked people! Your hearts and ears are still uncircumcised. You are just like your ancestors: You always resist the Holy Spirit! 52 Was there ever a prophet your ancestors did not persecute? They even killed those who predicted the coming of the Righteous One. And now you have betrayed and murdered him — 53 you who have received the law that was given through angels but have not obeyed it."

54 When the members of the Sanhedrin heard this, they were furious and gnashed their teeth at him. 55 But Stephen, full of the Holy Spirit, looked up to heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God.56 "Look," he said, "I see heaven open and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God."

57 At this they covered their ears and, yelling at the top of their voices, they all rushed at him, 58 dragged him out of the city and began to stone him. Meanwhile, the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul.

59 While they were stoning him, Stephen prayed, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." 60 Then he fell on his knees and cried out, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." When he had said this, he fell asleep.

**8:1** And Saul approved of their killing him. The Church Persecuted and Scattered. On that day a great persecution broke out against the church in Jerusalem, and all except the apostles were scattered throughout Judea and Samaria. 2 Godly men buried Stephen and mourned deeply for him. 3 But Saul began to destroy the church. Going from house to house, he dragged off both men and women and put them in prison.



April 29, 2012 | Pastor Terry Bate

*"Now, Lord, consider their threats and enable your servants to speak your word with great boldness."*

*Acts 4:29 (NIV)*

Was there ever a time in your life that you were compelled to share something and you were **scared** to do so? Share.

Define (in your words) **fearlessness** ...

Why do you think **Stephen** gave these religious leaders a lesson in their own church history?

What **began** within the Christian movement after Stephen's death?

Is God asking **you** to be **more bold** with your faith? In what ways?

*"What I tell you in the dark, speak in the daylight; what is whispered in your ear, proclaim from the roofs. Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul."*

*Matthew 10:27-28 (NIV)*



Miss Something? That's okay!!  
You can download this sermon at [flushingcommunity.org](http://flushingcommunity.org)

# Digging Deeper

[Engaging the message throughout the week]

## Monday: 04.30.2012

**Prayer Focus:** The Flushing Community

**Passage:** Ephesians 4:17-5:2

**Insight:** Paul is encouraging us to live faithfully according to the light that God offers. Light reveals truth—darkness conceals it. We ought to live according to the truth that God is showing us and not be worried about the outcome or the response. That part is up to God to begin with.

### Questions for Consideration:

Living boldly starts with living rightly. How is God challenging that within you?

## Tuesday: 05.01.2012

**Prayer Focus:** FCC Church Leadership

**Passage:** Philippians 1:3-18a

**Insight:** Paul points out that some were preaching Christ boldly and fearlessly for all the wrong motives. The difference is found in the motivation behind the boldness. In the end, Paul concludes that it doesn't matter about the motive as long as Christ is being proclaimed.

### Questions for Consideration:

Do you every question someone's motive in sharing Jesus?

## Wednesday: 05.02.2012

**Prayer Focus:** Don't forget about Boost tonight!

**Passage:** 1 Peter 2:4-25

**Insight:** Living boldly for Jesus is difficult. But if we viewed Jesus as a precious stone—as a “most have” item in our life, then we would likely share Him with others more quickly. Verse 12 puts our life into perspective as it relates to others ... let them see Jesus living through you and glorify God!

### Questions for Consideration:

What are the greatest challenges for living in a way that others see Jesus living in you?

Is it difficult to submit to someone else's authority like Peter says we ought to in verse 13?

## Thursday: 05.03.2012

**Prayer Focus:** The sick and recovering (iPray)

**Passage:** Acts 4:23-31

**Insight:** The early church faced some opposition initially. Each time they did, they prayed. This prayer in chapter 4 of Acts shows them asking for even more boldness than they had already! And God answered their prayer with another powerful expression of the Holy Spirit.

### Questions for Consideration:

When you face opposition or disappointment, do you respond with a prayer for greater boldness?

What do you need to seek boldness for in your life today?

## Friday: 05.04.2012

**Prayer Focus:** Our church worship services (5/6)

**Passage:** Romans 12

**Insight:** As we prepare for our final Sunday in this series, we will be considering the transformation that takes place in the heart of normal people. Paul commands us to not conform to this world but to be transformed by Christ. We should love in extravagant ways—ways the world cannot understand.

### Questions for Consideration:

What part of the world is most luring to you? What do you desire?

Can you love like Paul commands us to beginning in verse 9?

**Wednesday Night**

**BOOST**

It's not too late to  
join our spring  
session!

Now - May 23

**Ladies:** “Mercy Triumphs” by Beth Moore. Discover what faith in Jesus can do for you as you journey through the book of James!

**Men:** Utilizing the Life Application Bible Study, we are going to journey through the book of James. Join us at the Salem's home.

**The Book of Acts:** Mike DeVuyst will be leading a great discussion on the book of Acts. Discover great insight into the early church!

**Children:** Will be looking the Lord's prayer and Club 56 will be going through the book of Daniel.

**Youth:** Will be meeting at Pastor Joel's and going through the Mosaic Experiment looking at ancient practices of faith.