

ARE YOU ADVANCING IN THE KINGDOM OR RETREATING? By Jarrod Davidoff August 2, 2020

Acts 6:8 And Stephen, full of faith and power, did great wonders and signs among the people.

12 And they stirred up the people, the elders, and the scribes; and they came upon *him*, seized him, and brought *him* to the council. **13** They also set up false witnesses who said, “This man does not cease to speak blasphemous words against this holy place and the law; **14** for we have heard him say that this Jesus of Nazareth will destroy this place and change the customs which Moses delivered to us.” **15** And all who sat in the council, looking steadfastly at him, saw his face as the face of an angel.

Stephen started preaching giving them a chronological history lesson and evidence of Jesus being the Messiah. Then he went into beast mode. That’s a sports analogy.

Acts 7:51 “*You* stiff-necked and uncircumcised in heart and ears! You always resist the Holy Spirit; as your fathers *did*, so *do* you. **52** Which of the prophets did your fathers not persecute? And they killed those who foretold the coming of the Just One, of whom you now have become the betrayers and murderers, **53** who have received the law by the direction of angels and have not kept *it*.”

54 When they heard these things they were cut to the heart, and they gnashed at him with *their* teeth. **55** But he, being full of the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God, **56** and said, “Look! I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!”

57 Then they cried out with a loud voice, stopped their ears, and ran at him with one accord; **58** and they cast *him* out of the city and stoned *him*. And the witnesses laid down their clothes at the feet of a young man named Saul. **59**

And they stoned Stephen as he was calling on *God* and saying, “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.” **60** Then he knelt down and cried out with a loud voice, “Lord, do not charge them with this sin.” And when he had said this, he fell asleep.

Acts 8:1 Now Saul was consenting to his death.

At that time a great persecution arose against the church which was at Jerusalem; and they were all scattered throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria, except the apostles.

4 Therefore those who were scattered went everywhere preaching the word.

These were hectic times. They didn't back down, hide out, go online and wait for things to settle down, they rose up in the name of Jesus and began to preach the gospel.

5 things you can do to ADVANCE THE KINGDOM OF GOD in your own life and the world

1) PRAY

Prayer is talking to God. Prayer brings intimacy with the Lord, conviction and action.

When I pray I position myself to be at the sprout where the glory comes out. I take my eyes off me and my limitations and place them on our great God.

Pray to the Lord.

Daniel 11:32 the people who know their God shall be strong, and carry out *great exploits*.

Matthew 18:18 “Assuredly, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.

19 “Again I say to you that if two of you agree on earth concerning anything that they ask, it will be done for them by My Father in heaven. **20** For where two or three are gathered together in My name, I am there in the midst of them.”

Luke 11:2 So He said to them, “When you pray, say: Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as *it is* in heaven.

Pray as a married couple-couples that pray together stay together

Pray as a family

Pray for friends and with them

Pray over people-even in evangelism

Pray as a church

Pray in your connect group

Pray for your business

DECREE AND DECLARE BLESSINGS OVER THEM

2) PREACH THE GOSPEL

Satan wants to shut you up. He's ok with his children saying whatever they want to say but he uses intimidation and fear to get God's children to be silent.

WE WILL NOT BE SILENT

WE WILL NOT GO QUIETLY INTO THE NIGHT

We are here to make an impact on the world.

Let's plunder hell and populate heaven in Jesus name.

If we want to see a change in society we need to reach people. If we want to change their hearts we need to lead them to Jesus.

The church of Jesus is not a pleasure boat BUT a lifeboat for saving souls and all hands are needed on deck, from the captain to the cook

Cape Town gangs

Leading them to Jesus

Luke 14:16 Then He said to him, "A certain man gave a great supper and invited many, **17** and sent his servant at supper time to say to those who were invited, 'Come, for all things are now ready.' **18** But they all with one *accord* began to make excuses. The first said to him, 'I have bought a piece of ground, and I must go and see it. I ask you to have me excused.' **19** And another said, 'I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I am going to test them. I ask you to have me excused.' **20** Still another said, 'I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come.' **21** So that servant came and reported these things to his master. Then the master of the house, being angry, said to his servant,

‘Go out quickly into the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in here *the* poor and *the* maimed and *the* lame and *the* blind.’ **22** And the servant said, ‘Master, it is done as you commanded, and still there is room.’ **23** Then the master said to the servant, ‘Go out into the highways and hedges, and compel *them* to come in, that my house may be filled. **24** For I say to you that none of those men who were invited shall taste my supper.’ ”

Another way of advancing the kingdom:

3) DISCIPLE OTHERS

Who are you discipling?

Jesus had 12 men He trained to be His main leaders

He must disciplined his family

120 on day of Pentecost including his mom and siblings

Peter, James and John were His closest

Matthew 28:18 And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. **19** Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, **20** teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, *even* to the end of the age.” Amen.

Mark 16:15 And He said to them, “Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. **16** He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned. **17** And these signs will follow those who believe: In My name they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues; **18** they will take up serpents; and if they drink anything deadly, it will by no means hurt them; they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover.”

4) LIVE A CONSECRATED LIFE TO THE LORD

Consecrate means to make a decision to dedicate yourself to God, spirit, soul and body. Only you can make this decision of your will and intellect.

Psalm 24:3 Who may ascend into the hill of the Lord? Or who may stand in His holy place? **4** He who has **clean hands and a pure heart**, Who has **not lifted up his soul to an idol**, Nor sworn deceitfully. **5** He shall receive blessing from the Lord, And righteousness from the God of his salvation.

QUALIFICATIONS OF OVERSEERS

1 Timothy 3:1 This *is* a faithful saying: If a man desires the position of a bishop, he desires a good work. **2** A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife, temperate, sober-minded, of good behavior, hospitable, able to teach; **3** not given to wine, not violent, not greedy for money, but gentle, not quarrelsome, not covetous; **4** one who rules his own house well, having *his* children in submission with all reverence **5** (for if a man does not know how to rule his own house, how will he take care of the church of God?); **6** not a novice, lest being puffed up with pride he fall into the *same* condemnation as the devil. **7** Moreover he must have a good testimony among those who are outside, lest he fall into reproach and the snare of the devil.

QUALIFICATIONS OF DEACONS

8 Likewise deacons *must be* reverent, not double-tongued, not given to much wine, not greedy for money, **9** holding the mystery of the faith with a pure conscience. **10** But let these also first be tested; then let them serve as deacons, being *found* blameless. **11** Likewise, *their* wives *must be* reverent, not slanderers, temperate, faithful in all things. **12** Let deacons be the husbands of one wife, ruling *their* children and their own houses well. **13** For those who have served well as deacons obtain for themselves a good standing and great boldness in the faith which is in Christ Jesus.

To consecrate yourself to the Lord is to set yourself apart to follow the Lord no matter what anyone else does or says

You are setting yourself up to represent the Lord in your kingdom assignment

5) WILLING TO FACE PERSECUTION

PC Society
its even in the church world

Most of my Jewish family excommunicated me

Fired from a Jewish day school

Gang invaded our school outreach

Muslim territories-With Reinhard Bonnke in Kartoum-Bin Laden before 911 threatened to kill us all and blow up all of Reinhard's offices

One city in Nigeria the Muslims protested and shut the crusade down

Two terrible car accidents-satan trying to take me out

Luke 9:57 Now it happened as they journeyed on the road, *that* someone said to Him, "Lord, I will follow You wherever You go."

58 And Jesus said to him, "Foxes have holes and birds of the air *have* nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay *His* head."

59 Then He said to another, "Follow Me."

But he said, "Lord, let me first go and bury my father."

60 Jesus said to him, “Let the dead bury their own dead, but you go and preach the kingdom of God.”

61 And another also said, “Lord, I will follow You, but let me first go *and* bid them farewell who are at my house.”

62 But Jesus said to him, “No one, having put his hand to the plow, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God.”

A follower of Jesus is willing to give their life for the furtherance of the gospel.

JESUS WARNS HIS DISCIPLES IN:

John 16:1 “These things I have spoken to you, that you should not be made to stumble. **2** They will put you out of the synagogues; yes, the time is coming that whoever kills you will think that he offers God service. **3** And these things they will do to you because they have not known the Father nor Me. **4** But these things I have told you, that when the time comes, you may remember that I told you of them.

Of the original 12 disciples 11 of them and Paul were all martyred. They were willing to pay the price to establish God's kingdom on earth.

Peter and Paul martyred

Both martyred in Rome about 66 AD, during the persecution under Emperor Nero. Paul was beheaded. Peter was crucified, upside down at his request, since he did not feel he was worthy to die in the same manner as his Lord.

Andrew crucified

Went to the "land of the man-eaters," in what is now the Soviet Union. Christians there claim him as the first to bring the gospel to their land. He also preached in Asia Minor, modern-day Turkey, and in Greece, where he is said to have been crucified.

Thomas pierced with spears

Was probably most active in the area east of Syria. Tradition has him preaching as far east as India, where the ancient Marthoma Christians revere him as their founder. They claim that he died there when pierced through with the spears of four soldiers.

Philip cruelly put to death

Possibly had a powerful ministry in Carthage in North Africa and then in Asia Minor, where he converted the wife of a Roman proconsul. In retaliation the proconsul had Philip arrested and cruelly put to death.

Matthew stabbed to death

The tax collector and writer of a Gospel ministered in Persia and Ethiopia. Some of the oldest reports say he was not martyred, while others say he was stabbed to death in Ethiopia.

Bartholomew various accounts

Had widespread missionary travels attributed to him by tradition: to India with Thomas, back to Armenia, and also to Ethiopia and Southern Arabia. There are various accounts of how he met his death as a martyr for the gospel.

James stoned and clubbed to death

The son of Alphaeus is one of at least three James referred to in the New Testament. There is some confusion as to which is which, but this James is reckoned to have ministered in Syria. The Jewish historian Josephus reported that he was stoned and then clubbed to death.

Simon the Zealot killed

So the story goes, ministered in Persia and was killed after refusing to sacrifice to the sun god.

Matthais burned to death

The apostle chosen to replace Judas. Tradition sends him to Syria with Andrew and to death by burning.

John

The only one of the apostles generally thought to have died a natural death from old age. He was the leader of the church in the Ephesus area and is said to have taken care of Mary the mother of Jesus in his home. During Domitian's persecution in the middle '90s, he was exiled to the island of Patmos. There he is credited with writing the last book of the New Testament--the Revelation. An early Latin tradition has him escaping unhurt after being cast into boiling oil at Rome.