**Pastor Demetric Felton Sr. June 25, 2017**

**A Message Worth Dying For**

ACTS 6,7

**Key truth:** There is something about persecution that allows us to know God deeply. When times get really tough, we discover more about who God is and how He works.

**A Man On A Mission:**

1. Stephen’s Ministry is marked by the continued presence

 of the Holy Spirit.

2. Stephen is on trial for preaching the gospel and

 blasphemy.

3. Stephen responds with boldness, proclaiming God’s

 grace despite Israel’s continued rejection.

4. Stephen is killed because he convicts

 them of the very thing he is on trial for.

**Lessons We Can Learn From The Life of Stephen:**

1. Every believer has been called to share the gospel.

 2 Corinthians 5:21

2. The gospel will never be popular to the masses.

 John 15:18-25

3. Persecution is apart of the Christian life. Matthew 5:11-12,

 Philippians 1:29, 1 Peter 4:12-19

4. The gospel is worth losing our lives for. Romans 8:18,

 2 Timothy 3:12

5. Live everyday relying upon the Holy Spirit’s power.

 John 14:26

6. God is present with us in the midst of persecution.

7. Pray for your enemies. Matthew 6:43-48

8. How you live and die is a witness to others of the reality

 of gospel. 1 Peter 3:13-17

**Taking It Beyond The Walls:** Live a life surrendered to the Holy Spirit. Pray for our brothers and sisters experiencing persecution all over the world.

**Food For Thought**

For the Week of June 25, 2017

(Questions and Scriptures for further study)

**1 Peter 4:12-13**

**12**Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery trial when it comes upon you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. **13**But rejoice insofar as you share Christ's sufferings, that you may also rejoice and be glad when his glory is revealed.

Suffering isn’t something that should catch Christians by surprise. All over the world Christians are suffering persecution. How does living in America shape the way you view persecution?

According to ‘Open Doors Research Group” Each month:

322 Christians are killed for their faith.

214 Churches or Christian properties are destroyed.

772 Forms of violence is committed against Christians.

**\*\*Please Pray For Our Persecuted Brothers and Sisters\*\***

Luke 14:25-27

**25**Now great crowds accompanied him, and he turned and said to them, **26**“If anyone comes to me and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be my disciple. **27**Whoever does not bear his own cross and come after me cannot be my disciple.

Following Jesus means to live a life of sacrifice. How would you describe your life as a follower of Jesus? Is there ways in which need to become more vocal about your faith?