

FBC Sebring Wednesday Prayer Meeting – Pastor Matt Crawford

January 27, 2016

Prayer in the Book of Acts (Part 4)

Acts 7:54–60 (ESV) – see background earlier in chapter 7

⁵⁴*Now when they heard these things they were enraged, and they ground their teeth at him [Stephen].*

⁵⁵*But he, 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 he said, “Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God.”*

⁵⁷*But they cried out with a loud voice and stopped their ears and rushed together at him.*

⁵⁸*Then they cast him out of the city and stoned him. And the witnesses laid down their garments at the feet of a young man named Saul.*

⁵⁹*And as they were stoning Stephen, he called out, “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit” [his first prayer].*

⁶⁰*And falling to his knees he cried out with a loud voice, “Lord, do not hold this sin against them” [his second prayer]. And when he had said this, he fell asleep.*

Prayer points:

- Pray that we would trust in Jesus, even when suffering, even to the point of death.
- Thank God for the hope of eternal life that we have because of Jesus’ death and resurrection.
- Pray that we would have the spirit of forgiveness that Stephen (and Jesus in Luke 23:34) demonstrated in verse 60.

Acts 8:9–25 (ESV)

⁹*But there was a man named Simon, who had previously practiced magic in the city and amazed the people of Samaria, saying that he himself was somebody great.*

¹⁰*They all paid attention to him, from the least to the greatest, saying, “This man is the power of God that is called Great.”*

¹¹*And they paid attention to him because for a long time he had amazed them with his magic.*

¹²*But when they believed Philip as he preached good news about the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women.*

¹³*Even Simon himself believed, and after being baptized he continued with Philip. And seeing signs and great miracles performed, he was amazed.*

¹⁴*Now when the apostles at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent to them Peter and John,*

¹⁵*who came down and prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit,*

¹⁶for he had not yet fallen on any of them, but they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.

¹⁷Then they laid their hands on them and they received the Holy Spirit.

¹⁸Now when Simon saw that the Spirit was given through the laying on of the apostles' hands, he offered them money,

¹⁹saying, "Give me this power also, so that anyone on whom I lay my hands may receive the Holy Spirit."

²⁰But Peter said to him, "May your silver perish with you, because you thought you could obtain the gift of God with money!

²¹You have neither part nor lot in this matter, for your heart is not right before God.

²²Repent, therefore, of this wickedness of yours, and pray to the Lord that, if possible, the intent of your heart may be forgiven you.

²³For I see that you are in the gall of bitterness and in the bond of iniquity."

²⁴And Simon answered, "Pray for me to the Lord, that nothing of what you have said may come upon me."

²⁵Now when they had testified and spoken the word of the Lord, they returned to Jerusalem, preaching the gospel to many villages of the Samaritans.

Prayer points:

- Thank God for the gift of the indwelling Holy Spirit.
- Thank God for the continued gift of forgiveness that He gives when we confess our sins (I John 1:9).
- Pray for a continual spirit of repentance and a heart that is sensitive to the Holy Spirit's conviction.
- Pray that God would give you a heart of love for others that need your prayers, and that He would bring them to your mind.