

DISCIPLESHIP GROUPS

Our Mission: To win, build and send Department of Defense leaders to live for Jesus Christ

17-21 February 2003

ACTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT #6 – DEVELOPING CONVICTIONS

INTRODUCTION:

- What is one of the worst things that has happened to you?

OBSERVATION/INTERPRETATION:

Note: The religious leaders used their influence to arrest innocent men. Such acts of injustice demonstrate the dangers that can occur when a leader allows his or her decisions to be driven by jealousy rather than justice. When a godly leader has to decide between obeying God or obeying a human authority figure such a decision to follow God is based on his/her convictions.

[Read the quote by Dr. Hendricks below]

Read Acts 6:1-15

- What do we know about Stephen?
- How would you describe the Holy Spirit working in his life?
- What accusations did the Jewish leadership make concerning Stephen?

Note: In Stephen's defense (Acts 7:1-47) he recounted the history of Israel using the scriptures starting with God's call to Abraham to leave his country and to go into a land that God would show him. He included the lineage from Abraham to Isaac to Jacob (Israel) who became the father of the 12 patriarchs. Because of a famine they went to Egypt where they remained in bondage for 400 years. Then God raised up Moses to deliver them miraculously and how He gave Moses "living oracles" to pass on, but the leaders were unwilling to be obedient. Instead they chose to worship and sacrifice to idols and then Solomon eventually built a house for God to dwell.

Read Acts 7:48-60

- How did Stephen's response answer his accusers?
- How did the Jewish leadership respond to Stephen's exhortation?
- What convictions did Stephen display?
- What role did the Holy Spirit play in this process?
- What has helped to shape your convictions?

APPLICATION:

- What can you do to strengthen your convictions?

A conviction is a principle, which I cherish or prize highly enough that I practice it in my life. Each of us has two sets of convictions. The one set is the set that you would write down on a piece of paper or would verbally explain to someone who said, what are the six most important things in your life and prioritize them. The second set of convictions is the one by which you function in life. There is a vast difference between your belief system and your convictional system. Your belief system is something you will argue for and your convictional system is something you will die for.

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