

NEW ACTS #9: Acts 7:51-53 "EVERY REASON TO SAY YES"

HT If the work of salvation was finished by Christ there was nothing to do but to believe

- **GOD IS ALWAYS WORKING – SEEKING TO LEAD U FAITH**

MP: While it takes a work of the Holy Spirit to be saved, the heart still has to say, "Yes."

ADVERSARY: Corrupt/divide/kill **STEPHEN DEACONATOR-SERMONATOR**

HISTORY LESSON – Beautiful faithfulnesses of GOD (AJMJS) – stark contrast unbelief

- **BROUGHT TO BEAR IN THEM – APEX ISRAEL'S HISTORY – BEHAVED FTHRS**

UNBELIEF IS A HEART CONDITION

STIFF NECKED (sklerotrakulos): arteriosclerosis – hardened/brittle

- obstinate – resistant – Held up in pride – **WILDERNESS DISPOSITION**
- **OPPOSITE: THE BEAUTY OF A HEAD BOWED IN HUMILITY - POSTURE**

Eliazar the servant of Abraham, Jehoshaphat, 1 Chron 29:20 David and God's people, Exodus 34:8 Moses/Israel, Nehemiah 8:6 (blessed),

Nehemiah 9:6 You alone are the Lord. You have made the heavens, the heaven of heavens with all their host, The earth and all that is on it, The seas and all that is in them. You give life to all of them and the heavenly host bows down before You.

BC UNCIRCUMCISED HEARTS AND EARS – idiom – circumcision symbolized faith

- **FAITHLESS IN HEART** – seat of the will/spring the decisions of life

More than the mind - you can have a convinced intellect but an unsubmitted heart.

- **FAITHLESS EARS (HEARING)** – Progressive unwillingness to listen to God

1st: Choice to reject what He has revealed - 2nd: Growing inability to hear him at all - 3rd:

A lifestyle of not listening – you can't hear **WALKING AWAY/RELIGIOUS MOTIONS**

THEIR UNBELIEF WASN'T JUST RESISTING MAN IT WAS RESISTING GOD

MURDERED STEPHEN (false accusations)

John 15:20 'A servant is not greater than his master.' If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you. If they kept My word, they will keep yours also.

- **RESISTING HOLY SPIRIT – REJECTING GOD - UNBELIEF GREATEST SIN**

Rejecting Christianity – denying one of the many religions, opinions – **ZUPAS/1options**

It's unbelief that will keep you from God's eternal kingdom.

John 3:17 For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved. ¹⁸"He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.

UNBELIEF DENIES THE BEAUTY OF GOD'S REVELATION - RECEIVED

CREATION – ANGELS – MIRACLES – PROPHETS – JOHN BAPTIST – JC (life/cru/rez)

- **GOD WORKS TO LEAD YOU TO FAITH – WHISPERS OF GOD EVERYWHERE**

Sunset/Mountains/intricacyhumanlife/fidelityfriend/nudging Spirit - **HIS OWN SON**

Hebrews 1:1 God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, ²has in these last days spoken to us by *His Son*

God has given you more reasons to believe Him than to deny Him.

- **GOD STANDING/WHISPERING – I'M HERE BELIEVE IN ME – FAITHFUL**

KEY QUESTION: What has been holding you back from belief? Believing GOD

Mark 9:23 "If you can believe, all things *are* possible to him who believes."

YOU CAN – BC NO HEART IS TOO FAR FROM FAITH

Saul was in the crowd – WORKED ON BY GOD – **A SAUL HERE TODAY**

Romans 10:8 The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart" **THAT WORD OF FAITH**

Belief is a choice we make in the light of God's revelation that He's given to us.

John 6:37 "All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will by no means cast out."

1st of 4 sections – finish strong – CLOSING VIDEO – OBSTACLE IMPEDING FAITH