

Study of Acts 6
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Acts 6:1-15

In *verse 42* of *Acts 5*, Peter and the other Apostles were in the Temple ***daily*** and in peoples' homes every evening. They did not cease to preach the words and the Torah obedient life that Yeshua our Messiah lived every day of His Life as an example for all of us to follow.

The result of this teaching we are told in *verse 7* ***IS*** that the number of disciples were multiplied, and many people were added to those who kept the Commandments of YHVH and believed the testimony of Yeshua the Messiah. Don't let the irony of this short statement escape you. The fact that the Apostles taught us that Messiah, who of course ***IS our EXAMPLE LED*** a totally surrendered obedient life to the Torah of YHVH given to Moses at Mount Sinai, and that that teaching ***CAUSED*** thousands of others to also begin to follow in Messiah's footsteps, and lead Torah obedient lives, also ***IS CONTRARY*** to what the church leaders teach, for most of the church leaders believe and teach that Messiah Kept the Torah of the Father so that we would ***NOT*** have to keep it, because according to them it is impossible for any one to keep the Torah of Moses. When they make these kinds of irresponsible false statements they make our heavenly Father and His Messiah ***LIARS***, for Scripture emphasizes that we ***CAN DO ALL THINGS THROUGH MESSIAH WHO STRENGTHENS US***, therefore according to this verse and many others ***IT IS*** possible to ***KEEP*** and ***DO*** the Torah of Moses.

In *verse 2* we have a warning that sometimes we can get so spiritual, so focused on prayer and ministry that we neglect our other duties as the Apostles did, and as is stated in *verse 2*, and they were chastised for it. Once their error was brought to their attention, they met as a council and suggested that seven men of honest report, filled with the Spirit and the love of Elohim be found and appointed to take care of these matters.

How do you suppose they would know that the people they were looking for to do this work were filled with the Holy Spirit of Elohim? Today many people would have you believe that the only way to prove that someone is filled with the Holy Spirit of YHVH is ***IF*** they speak in tongues or ***IF*** they show signs and wonders, or have people fall over on the ground when they lay hands on them, which some call being slain in the spirit. But what ***IS IT*** that the Apostles looked for in a man as ***REAL and TRUE EVIDENCE*** that that individual was indeed indwelt by the Holy Spirit of YHVH?

Let me see ***IF*** I can answer this question using ***ONLY*** the Scriptures as a reference and ***NOT ANY MAN MADE DENOMINATIONAL DOCTRINES***. In *Romans 7:15* we are told that the Law, the Torah ***IS*** spiritual. ***IF*** the Law, the Torah ***IS*** indeed spiritual, ***THEN*** that means that the Torah ***IS FILLED*** with the Holy Spirit of YHVH; therefore, the measure that the Apostles used to determine whether or not a person was filled with the Spirit of Elohim was these peoples' willingness to ***SURRENDER TO, OBEY and DO*** the Word of Elohim, His Torah of Life, and ***NOT*** man made doctrines. The Apostles had to decide whether or ***NOT*** these men walked a Torah obedient life as Messiah ***DID***, before they could be appointed to do the job? That ***TRUTH***, of course ***IS*** indeed supported by Scripture, and we see that in *Ezekiel 36:26-27* *A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you a heart of flesh. And I will put M spirit within you, and CAUSE YOU to walk in My statutes, and*

you **SHALL KEEP MY** Judgments, My Torah and do them, (as Messiah did while He was here on earth).

Therefore according to the disciples the only way that **ANYONE** can be sure that another person **IS INDEED FILLED** with the Holy Spirit of YHVH **IS IF** that person **IS** willingly and lovingly **FOLLOWING, OBEYING** and **DOING** the Torah of YHVH, given to Moses by YHVH Himself at mount Sinai. Therefore at the risk of repeating myself there **IS** only **ONE** way we can discern whether a person **IS** Spirit filled or **NOT**, and that **IS** by actually witnessing whether he or she are following in the footsteps of Messiah's Torah obedient Life, whether or **NOT** they are actually Living by the Word of YHVH and walking in His inerrant and everlasting teaching and instructions, the inerrant and everlasting Word of the Father.

Verse 5 tells us that this suggestion by the leaders pleased them and the whole multitude, and that the first person they chose was Stephen, a man full of faith, that means a man that **IS** faithful to follow and obey the ways of YHVH, His Holy Torah and therefore **BECAUSE** of his faithfulness and obedience to the Torah, the inerrant and everlasting teachings and instructions of our heavenly Father, he was filled with the Spirit of our Heavenly Father.

Why did the council arrive at this decision to appoint people to take care of the needs of the widows? First of all, it is a Torah Commandment, and according to this Torah Commandment, **IF** we do not take care of the widows and they cry unto YHVH, then Scripture tells us that YHVH will hear from Heaven and make the wives of the people that are **NOT** taking care of the widows and orphans as they are commanded to do, He will make their wives widows.

These leaders knew their Torah and they realized that they had neglected their duties as leaders and because of it, some people were suffering. They wanted to spend all of their time in prayer, but they also realized that **IF** they didn't take care of all the congregation and especially the widows and orphans, that YHVH would **NOT HEAR** their prayers, and that **IS** supported Scripturally in *Proverbs 28:7, 9* **Whoso keeps the Torah IS A WISE SON**: (That statement **ALONE** should be enough to cause every believer to **KEEP** and **DO** the Torah of Moses) *but he that is a companion of riotous men shames his father.*

Verse 9 **He that turns away his ear from hearing, shemah (hear, listen, understand, believe, obey and DO) the Torah, the Law, EVEN HIS PRAYER SHALL be abomination. Whoso causes the RIGHTEOUS to go astray in an evil way, he shall fall himself into his own pit: but the upright shall have good things in possession.**

Who are the Righteous spoken of here in this verse? *We are told who they are in Deuteronomy 6:25* **And IT SHALL BE our RIGHTEOUSNESS, IF we observe TO DO ALL THESE COMMANDMENTS before YHVH our Elohim, AS HE HATH COMMANDED US.** Therefore the **RIGHTEOUS ARE** those who willingly choose **to do all these Commandments before YHVH our Elohim, as He has Commanded them.**

As we read on we see that along with Stephen, *whose name means crown*, they chose Phillip whose name means, *fond of horses*, Prochorus, whose name means *before the dance*, Nicanor whose name means, *victorious*, Timon, whose name means *valuable*, and Parmenas, whose name means, *constant*, and finally Nicolas, whose name means *victorious over people*.

As you know I am convinced that there **IS** always a message found in the definition of the words and or names that are written in the Scriptures and this list **IS** no exception.

Through obedience to the wonderful inerrant and everlasting teaching and instructions of our Heavenly Father, we are *crowned* with the mind of Messiah and through *loyalty* to His Word and *fondness* for YHVH, we become one with Him, as a couple *dancing* together are one. We become *victorious*, not by what we have done, but by the power of YHVH's Holy Spirit. We are *Segulah*, a *precious and valuable* treasure to Him and His love for us **IS constant** and unchanging and the gates of hell **WILL NOT PREVAIL OVER US**. We will be *victorious* over the peoples of the world, because it is our Heavenly Father that fights our battles for us **BECAUSE** of our loving surrendered obedient hearts to His ways, His inerrant and everlasting teaching and instructions.

Now through the names you can see that they were indeed filled with the Spirit of our Heavenly Father.

I want you to pay very close attention to the order of things.

The leaders were made aware of a problem,

They then met and decided on a plan to remedy the situation,

Certain men filled with the Spirit of Elohim (as evidenced by their Torah obedient walk), were chosen, appointed and brought before the Apostles and

And when these men were brought before the Apostles, the very first thing the Apostles did is **PRAY and seek the counsel of YHVH**.

Once they received acknowledgment from YHVH that these men **WERE** the ones that He wanted to fill the position, the Apostles placed their hands upon these selected men and YHVH, through these Apostles, placed His Holy Spirit into these men, in order to enable them to carry out their duties.

That is the pattern my friends. We must always acknowledge YHVH and have Him direct our paths, and when we do things according to the pattern that Elohim has established and spoke of in *verse 7* then, we can rest assured that the Word of Elohim will increase in our lives as it increased in these men's lives. We are told that because the Apostles appointed these men to take care of the widows as YHVH had Commanded in His Word, that the number of disciples in Jerusalem *increased substantially*. Not only that, but it says that a **GREAT COMPANY OF PRIESTS WERE OBEDIENT to the faith**, which means that the Priest believed, and what they believed and were faithful to was the Torah of YHVH given to Moses at mount Sinai, which brings to mind what YHVH said to Moses in *Exodus 19:9 And YHVH said unto Moses, Lo, I come unto You Moses in a thick cloud, so that the people may hear when I speak with you, and BELIEVE YOU FOR EVER*. YHVH wants us to Believe Moses who of course **IS** a metaphor for YHVH's Torah of Life, **FOREVER**.

These priests did **NOT** stop being Aaronic priests and become *Christians* and walk away from the Word of Elohim, His Torah of Life and all of a sudden start teaching that the Law had somehow been done away with in whole or in part. **NO, NO**, a thousand times **NO**, Elohim forbid, they kept and taught the Torah of the Father in the very same manner that Yeshua had taught them. For Messiah's teaching about the Torah of Moses **IS VERY CLEAR**, *Matthew 5:18 For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, NOT ONE JOT or ONE TITTLE shall in any way pass from the Torah, the Law, TILL ALL BE FULFILLED*.

From this point on to the end of *Chapter 7*, the Scriptures focus on Stephen who **IS A** picture of Messiah. Therefore I believe that what happened to Stephen **IS** a re-enactment or a shadow picture of what happened to Messiah when He was crucified.

Let's see the comparisons:

Stephen was full of faith and power and YHVH did great wonders and miracles among the people through Him. Is that not what the Father did through Messiah also? Messiah was indeed surrendered to the Father and the Father worked miracle after miracle through Him in the same manner that He worked miracles through Stephen.

Then his own brothers, his own people from the synagogue spoke out **AGAINST** Stephen and accused him of teaching against the Torah, the Law of Moses and the Prophets; the exact same thing that they accused Messiah of doing.

In *verse 10* it says they were **NOT** able to resist the **WISDOM** and the Spirit by which Stephen spoke. Messiah, also dumbfounded the Pharisees, Sadducees and the scribes with the Spirit and the **WISDOM** by which He spoke.

They stirred up the people against Stephen; the elders of the synagogue and the Scribes and they caught Stephen and brought him to trial in the same manner that they brought Messiah to trial.

They set up false witnesses against him, the same way that they did with Yeshua.

They accused him of speaking blasphemous words against the Temple and the Torah (Law), which was a false accusation.

Now don't forget that these people that are accusing Stephen **ARE FALSE WITNESSES** and **THEY** are the ones that make the accusations that Stephen **IS** teaching **AGAINST** the Temple and **AGAINST** the Torah, which therefore means that Stephen **WASN'T** teaching **AGAINST** the Temple and the Torah of Moses, which then means that Stephen's teaching **WAS** indeed in favour of the Temple and that he taught the Torah of Moses. If that **IS** the case, then aren't those people that teach against the temple, or against having the Temple erected again, along with its altar, and those that teach against the Torah, saying that it is done away with, **AREN'T THEY ALSO THEREFORE ALIGNING THEMSELVES WITH THESE FALSE WITNESSES?**

Verse 14 continues with this same *false witness* report. *For we have heard him say (now please understand that this IS the FALSE WITNESSES saying this), that this Yeshua of Nazareth shall destroy this place, the temple (because that is where they held the trial of Stephen) and shall change the customs which Moses delivered or gave us.*

IF these people spoken of here in *Acts 6* were indeed **FALSE witnesses** and these **FALSE witnesses** said that Yeshua somehow changed the customs which Moses delivered to us, and we **KNOW** that what Moses delivered to us **IS THE TORAH OF YHVH, THEN DOES THAT NOT MAKE ALL THE PEOPLE THAT BELIEVE AND TEACH THAT THE LAW, the TORAH OF MOSES IS DONE AWAY WITH, DOES THAT NOT MAKE THEM FALSE WITNESSES ALSO?**

I am only bringing out what the Scriptures say. Although I believe it with all my heart, **THIS IS NOT** an opinion that I developed on my own, **IT IS** the infallible Word of Elohim speaking and saying that **ALL** who believe and teach that the Law, the Torah of Moses **IS** either changed or somehow done away with, **ARE FALSE WITNESSES**, *according to the book of Acts*. I do **NOT**

believe that **IF** a reasonable person reads this text in the book of Acts exactly **AS IT IS GIVEN**, that they can come to any other conclusion **EXCEPT** the one that states that **ANY** and **ALL** people that believe and teach that the Torah of YHVH **IS** somehow partially or totally done away with **IS a FALSE WITNESS and a FALSE TEACHER**.

Moreover, **IF IT IS** false witnesses that say, *he spoke against the Temple and the Law, the Torah of Moses*, we can safely deduce that Stephen therefore spoke **IN FAVOUR** of the Temple and the Law, the Torah of Moses, especially since *1 John 3:4* tells us that *sin is the transgression of the Torah, the Law* and we are told that Stephen **IS** filled with the Holy Spirit of Elohim. Therefore, we **MUST** conclude that **IF** Stephen **IS FILLED** with the Spirit of Elohim, **THEN HE IS NOT SINNING** and since **SIN IS** transgressions of the Torah, that means that Stephen was obedient to the Torah of the Father and therefore he too was without sin at that time. Therefore according to the text, **IT IS** a certainty that Stephen **NOT ONLY** lived **BY** the Torah of our heavenly Father, but he also taught the Torah to all that would listen. To ensure that we are convinced that Stephen lived and taught the Torah of the Father, His inerrant and everlasting teaching and instructions, *verse 15* tells us that **ALL** of the council, **ALL** that saw Stephen's face, saw it **AS** the face of an angel, a messenger of Elohim, and still they continued on with the *false witnesses*.

Unfortunately we will continue to have these *false witnesses* come against the inerrant and everlasting teachings and instructions of our heavenly Father and we **MUST** learn to be like Stephen, totally surrendered to our Father, and resist their false teachings, resist their poison, and help others to resist their poison also.

We are **ALL** works in progress and **IF** we want to become one with the Father and dance with Him as **ONE**, **THEN** surrendering our will to His will with a loving committed heart to obey His inerrant and everlasting teaching and instructions, His Torah of Life, **IS THE ONLY WAY** that we can achieve our goal of being One with our heavenly Father. May we all become as Stephen in our quest to obey and walk with our Heavenly Father.

May we all be true witnesses of YHVH as evidenced by our obedience to His inerrant and everlasting teaching and instructions, and therefore let us **NOT** be **WITNESSES** of the man made **FALSE DOCTRINES** that permeate the houses of YHVH today, rather than YHVH's **TRUTH**, His Torah of Life! Amein.

Studying and keeping Torah together as a community.

Have a great Elohim blessed week and may Yahweh bless your every thought, and your every deed. Until we meet again, שְׁלוֹם עֲלֵיכֶם, Shalom Aleykem. Amein