

UNSTOPPABLE: Daring to Be the Church On Mission

Lesson Thirteen • Acts 6:8-15

Crowned with Courage

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Stephen was a courageous WITNESS for Jesus Christ who died as the first Christian martyr.

Living as a Courageous Witness for Jesus Christ

1. A Courageous Witness RELIES On God's Power!

A Man Full of Godliness:

Stephen was FULL of the Spirit, wisdom, faith, grace, and power.

And Stephen, full of faith and power, did great wonders and signs among the people. Acts 6:8

*Therefore, brethren, seek out from among you seven men of good reputation, full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom...And they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and the Holy Spirit.
Acts 6:3, 5*

What Are You Full Of?

Are you full of yourself? Are you full of self-righteousness? Are you full of bitterness and resentment? Are you full of anger or greed or jealousy or lust?

Or are you so controlled by the Spirit that you are full of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control (Fruit of the Spirit)?

2. A Courageous Witness FACES Hostility toward Christ!

The Hostility Stephen Faced:

- Stephen faced adversaries who openly OPPOSED him for his witness of Jesus Christ.

Then there arose some from what is called the Synagogue of the Freedmen (Cyrenians, Alexandrians, and those from Cilicia and Asia), disputing with Stephen. Acts 6:9

- Stephen faced adversaries who secretly PLOTTED against him through lies and deceit.

Then they secretly induced men to say, "We have heard him speak blasphemous words against Moses and God." And they stirred up the people, the elders, and the scribes; and they came upon him, seized him, and brought him to the council. They also set up false witnesses who said, "This man does not cease to speak blasphemous words against this holy place and the law; for we have heard him say that this Jesus of Nazareth will destroy this place and change the customs which Moses delivered to us." Acts 6:11-14

3. A Courageous Witness STANDS Strong in the Spirit!

And they were not able to resist the wisdom and the Spirit by which he spoke. Acts 6:10

4. A Courageous Witness REFLECTS God's Glory!

*And all who sat in the council, looking steadfastly at him, saw his face as the face of an angel.
Acts 6:15*

Be Bold for Jesus!

The same SPIRIT who gave Stephen power to be a courageous witness for Jesus Christ will give you power to be a courageous witness for Jesus Christ.

"But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth." Acts 1:8