

**I. HE WAS FULL OF WISDOM**

- A. This man Stephen was a might man for God because
1. He lived a life FILLED with God
    - a. One of the first deacons appointed (vs. 5)
      - i. Of the WHOLE multitude – at least 8500 members
      - ii. Stephen was the one they thought to use
      - iii. First mention of ANY of the others besides the Apostles
    - b. We hear his work (vs. 8) did GREAT wonders and miracles
    - c. He didn't force down the door, he was called up higher
      - i. It is WISDOM to faithfully and humbly serve God
      - ii. "But I want to sing a do some great thing!"
      - iii. Start with cleaning the bathroom (Brad's pastor)
    - d. Stephen was a faithful member and God moved him up
    - e. Stephen was a faithful deacon and then God moved him up
    - f. Stephen was a faithful preacher and then God moved him up
    - g. Stephen was a faithful unto DEATH and then God moved him up!
  2. He was faithfully preaching and then the council rose up and took him
    - a. Like a snake is coiled, they reached out and struck
    - b. They failed with the Apostles.
    - c. They failed with those unlearned fishermen, Peter and John
    - d. Let's take a weaker member, they said. Boy, did they find out!
  3. He spoke with WISDOM (vs. 10)
    - a. PROV. 15:33 – "The fear of the LORD is the instruction of wisdom; and before honour is humility."
    - b. PROV. 16:16 – "How much better is it to get wisdom than gold! and to get understanding rather to be chosen than silver!"
    - c. Stephen was full of Wisdom
- B. The works of Wisdom – so you'll know it when you see it!
1. Wisdom is known by its STANDING
    - a. PROV. 21:30 – "There is no wisdom nor understanding nor counsel against the LORD."
    - b. Whenever this world says something against God, that is unwise
    - c. No politician, no scientist, no leader can speak against Wisdom
    - d. Therefore, none can speak against God – He invented it!
  2. Wisdom is known by its SPIRIT
    - a. JAMES 3:17 – "But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be intreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy."
    - b. Not brash, unruly, contentious – ARGUMENTATIVE

- c. This is a hard sentence against those of us on the Internet
  - 3. Wisdom is known by its STEPS
    - a. PROV. 11:30 – “The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life; and he that winneth souls is wise.”
    - b. JAMES 3:13 – “Who is a wise man and endued with knowledge among you? let him shew out of a good conversation his works with meekness of wisdom.”
    - c. No wise man gets to SPEAK IT OUT. A wise man LIVES IT OUT!
- C. Wisdom only comes from God
  - 1. Wonder why there’s so many verses on Wisdom?
    - a. Think maybe God is trying to tell us something?
    - b. Think maybe we out to start listening?
  - 2. There is only one source:
    - a. JAMES 1:5 – “If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him.”
    - b. Begin young! Saw a pamphlet on “Parents, Go to Church!”
    - c. 2 TIM. 3:15 – “And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.”
  - 3. Stephen was FULL of Wisdom

## II. HE WAS FULL OF THE HOLY GHOST

- A. That means he was LED by the Holy Ghost
  - 1. That means he didn’t just go it alone, try his best and hope, go solo!
    - a. It means that in ALL his ways Stephen honored God
    - b. And in turn, GOD directed his path
    - c. “I just don’t know what to do.” Easy! Honor God!
  - 2. Stephen had an effect on those around him. He wasn’t just marking time
    - a. I mean, he was singing in the choir not just tapping his foot
    - b. He was on the frontline, not just doing metal drives back home
    - c. Like Nehemiah, he a trowel in one hand and sword in the other!
  - 3. This is not “that church” this is not the pastor’s church, it’s GOD’S church
    - a. If something gets done here, it’s only because someone does it
    - b. If a tract gets handed out, it’s because some Stephen hands it out
    - c. If a toilet gets cleaned, it’s because some Stephen cleans it
- B. It wasn’t just God’s Wisdom they couldn’t resist, but God’s SPIRIT (vs. 10)
  - 1. We get the idea that by debate and argumentation we will when them
    - a. No, no, no! We cannot save! We cannot change hearts
    - b. Only God’s Holy Spirit can do that. We have the duty to tell
    - c. Yes, persuasively! Yes, lovingly. Yes, truthfully.
    - d. JOHN 12:32 – “And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me.”

2. Oh, wouldn't you love to see a portrait of that day
  - a. You could see the expressions on their faces
  - b. Filled with rage, ridicule, and indignation
3. And Stephen, undisturbed by all their bitter sayings
  - a. Looking at them with a calm countenance
  - b. Filled with love, trust, peace, and CONFIDENCE!
- C. EPH. 5:18 – “And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit;”
  1. But so often we QUENCH the spirit, as 1 THESS. 5:19 forbids us
  2. Stephen was FULL of the Holy Ghost

### III. HE WAS FULL OF FAITH

- A. He didn't just have a little faith. He didn't just have SOME. He was FULL!
  1. We had an old Allis Chalmers tractor (180, 190, XT190, and the 200)
    - a. Tank was between the rear fenders and the driver seat on it
    - b. It didn't really have much of a fuel gage, and it didn't work well
    - c. Most were kind of grimy because you always ran it over
    - d. Couldn't tell how much diesel was inside until it spilled out!
  2. Don't just keep it all bottled up, let some spill out occasionally
  3. Don't just let your faith atrophy, EXERCISE it!
  4. LUKE 17:6 – “And the Lord said, If ye had faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye might say unto this sycamine tree, Be thou plucked up by the root, and be thou planted in the sea; and it should obey you.”
- B. Being full of faith, he could step OUT on faith, and see God do great things
  1. Faith believes God and goes FORWARD in the work
  2. HEB. 11:1 – “Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.”
  3. If you saw it before, it wouldn't take faith
    - a. Would you buy a car sight-unseen? People do, but I don't get it
    - b. I don't LIKE fixing cars, I want to try my best to get a good one
    - c. Think about the worst used car salesman you can imagine
      - i. Pinky ring. Comb over. White loafers
      - ii. Plaid jacket from the 1975 JC Penney fall line
      - iii. Wouldn't place a lot a faith in that... I'd want to SEE it
    - d. Don't treat God like that!
      - i. God cannot lie. He only gives GOOD gifts. He LOVES you.
      - ii. I wouldn't buy from a used car salesman sight unseen
      - iii. But I should ALWAYS trust God sight unseen – that's FAITH
- C. Stephen had SAVING faith. He had SERVING faith. Now see his STANDING faith
- D. We need to be like Stephen and be STRONG in faith

### IV. HE WAS FULL OF POWER

- A. When we are full of the Holy Ghost and full of Faith, we will have power
  - 1. That's not some Benny Hinn mumbo jumbo – that's not power
    - a. Discipline. Knowledge. Boldness.
    - b. Not power from the flesh but power from GOD
    - c. I listen to the old preachers on recordings and I just weep!
  - 2. Brother Courtney Lewis just posted one – he pastors inner city Chicago
    - a. He said this message inspired him as a young man
    - b. He doesn't know the preacher's name
    - c. But that preacher's stand had an effect on the life of Bro. Lewis
    - d. I've been there! I've seen his kids and the folks of that church
  - 3. It's OKAY to stand STRONG for God
- B. Stephen NATURALLY boldly proclaimed Christ
  - 1. He was filled with the Spirit. He was filled with Faith. With Wisdom.
  - 2. It would be UNNATURAL for him to do anything else!
  - 3. HEB. 11:6 – “But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.”
- C. Stephen was FULL of Power

## V. HE WAS FULL OF SUNSHINE

- A. Only three men in the Bible were said to have their faces shine
  - 1. Moses – in Exo. 34, after he had been with God on the Mountain
  - 2. Jesus – in Matt. 17, on the Mount of Transfiguration (only His face)
  - 3. And Stephen – in Acts 6
  - 4. The BIBLE says, his face shone like that of an angel (vs. 15)
- B. He was in God's perfect will and therefore had perfect peace
  - 1. You can have the same!
  - 2. ROMANS 8:37-39 – “Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us. (38) For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, (39) Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.”
  - 3. Are you FULLY PERSUADED?
- C. You can be!
  - 1. You might say, I don't think I have these things.
  - 2. Could it be that you have never placed your FULL trust in Jesus?
  - 3. Could it be that you have never accepted His gift of the FULL payment of your sin?
  - 4. Be Saved today!