

LEARNING TO WALK BY FAITH "Growing in Grace #8"

Acts 6:8-15 & 7:54-60

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⁸Now Stephen, a man full of God's grace and power, did great wonders and miraculous signs among the people. ⁹Opposition arose, however, from members of the Synagogue of the Freedmen (as it was called)—Jews of Cyrene and Alexandria as well as the provinces of Cilicia and Asia. These men began to argue with Stephen, ¹⁰but they could not stand up against his wisdom or the Spirit by whom he spoke.

¹¹Then they secretly persuaded some men to say, "We have heard Stephen speak words of blasphemy against Moses and against God."

¹²So they stirred up the people and the elders and the teachers of the law. They seized Stephen and brought him before the Sanhedrin. ¹³They produced false witnesses, who testified, "This fellow never stops speaking against this holy place and against the law. ¹⁴For we have heard him say that this Jesus of Nazareth will destroy this place and change the customs Moses handed down to us."

¹⁵All who were sitting in the Sanhedrin looked intently at Stephen, and they saw that his face was like the face of an angel.

...⁵⁴When they heard this, they were furious and gnashed their teeth at him. ⁵⁵But Stephen, full of the Holy Spirit, looked up to heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. ⁵⁶"Look," he said, "I see heaven open and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God."

⁵⁷At this they covered their ears and, yelling at the top of their voices, they all rushed at him, ⁵⁸dragged him out of the city and began to stone him. Meanwhile, the witnesses laid their clothes at the feet of a young man named Saul.

⁵⁹While they were stoning him, Stephen prayed, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit."

⁶⁰Then he fell on his knees and cried out, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." When he had said this, he fell asleep."

Acts 6:8-15 & 7:54-60 (NIV)

*"Let me live forever in your sanctuary,
safe beneath the shelter of your wings!"*

Psalm 61:4 (NLT)

*"Now faith is being sure of what we hope for
and certain of what we do not see."*

Hebrews 11:1 (NIV)

The example of Stephen:

"...known to be full of the Spirit and wisdom."

Acts 6:3

"They chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit;"

Acts 6:5

"Now Stephen, a man full of God's grace and power..."

Acts 6:8

F A I T H

- **For All I Take Him**

HOPE AND HAPPINESS

Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer.

Romans 12:12 (NIV)

- **For All I Trust Him**

ACCEPTANCE AND AMENDS **(Psalms 56 (NIV))**

- **For All I Thank Him**

GRATITUDE AND GENEROSITY

"¹⁶Be joyful always; ¹⁷pray continually; ¹⁸give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus."

1 Thess. 5:16-18 (NIV)