

# THE BOOK OF ACTS

## Stephen

**2 Corinthians 3:18<sub>b</sub> (NLT)** “And the Lord—who is the Spirit—makes us more and more like him [Jesus] as we are changed into his glorious image.”

### **Stephen was a godly man!**

**Acts 6:1 (NIV)** “In those days when the number of disciples was increasing, the Grecian Jews among them complained against the Hebraic Jews because their widows were being overlooked in the daily distribution of food.”

**Acts 6:2-3 (NIV)** “So the Twelve gathered all the disciples together and said, ‘It would not be right for us to neglect the ministry of the word of God in order to wait on tables. <sup>3</sup>Brothers and sisters, choose seven men from among you who are known to be full of the Spirit and wisdom. We will turn this responsibility over to them ...’”

### **Stephen was full of the Holy Spirit.**

**Acts 6:5<sub>a</sub> (NIV)** “This proposal pleased the whole group. They chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit ...”

### **Stephen had spiritual power.**

**Acts 6:8 (NIV)** “Now Stephen, a man full of God’s grace and power, did great wonders and miraculous signs among the people.”

**Ephesians 6:12 (NIV)** “For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.”

### **Stephen spoke with spirit led wisdom.**

**Acts 6:9-10 (NIV)** “Opposition 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, <sup>10</sup>but they could not stand up against his wisdom or the Spirit by whom he spoke.”

**Luke 12:11 (NIV)** “... do not worry about how you will defend yourselves or what you will say, <sup>12</sup>for the Holy Spirit will teach you at that time what you should say.”

**Acts 6:12 (NIV)** “So they stirred up the people and the elders and the teachers of the law. They seized Stephen and brought him before the Sanhedrin.”

**Acts 6:13-14 (NIV)** “They produced false witnesses, who testified, ‘This fellow never stops speaking against this holy place and against the law. <sup>14</sup>For we have heard him say that this Jesus of Nazareth will destroy this place and change the customs Moses handed down to us.’”

### **Stephen glowed with the glory of God.**

**Acts 6:15 (NIV)** “All who were sitting in the Sanhedrin looked intently at Stephen, and they saw that his face was like the face of an angel.”

### **Stephen knew the Word of God.**

**Acts 7:42<sub>b</sub> (NIV)** “This agrees with what is written in the book of the prophets ...”

**Acts 7:48<sub>b</sub> (NIV)** “As the prophet says ...”

### **Stephen died a Christ like death.**

**Acts 7:55-56 (NIV)** “But 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. <sup>56</sup>‘Look,’ he said, ‘I see heaven open and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God.’”

**Acts 7:57-58 (NIV)** “At this they covered their ears and, yelling at the top of their voices, they all rushed at him, <sup>58</sup>dragged

him out of the city and began to stone him.”

**Acts 7:59-60 (NIV)** “While they were stoning him, Stephen prayed, ‘Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.’<sup>60</sup> Then he fell on his knees and cried out, ‘Lord, do not hold this sin against them.’ When he had said this, he fell asleep.”

## **TWO LIES THAT WILL STUNT SPIRITUAL GROWTH:**

1. Thinking that becoming a Christian is the finish line.

**2 Corinthians 3:18<sub>b</sub> (NLT)** “And the Lord—who is the Spirit—makes us more and more like [Jesus] as we are changed into his glorious image.”

2. Thinking that spiritual growth happens automatically.

**1 Timothy 4:7<sub>b</sub> (NIV)** “... train yourself to be godly.”