

I. Stephen's Spiritual Wisdom (6:8-15)

- A. His wisdom was paired with power (8) - “And Stephen, full of grace and power, was doing great wonders and signs among the people.”**
- B. His wisdom aggravated the religious crowd (9) - “Then some of those who belonged to the synagogue of the Freedmen (as it was called), and of the Cyrenians, and of the Alexandrians, and of those from Cilicia and Asia, rose up and disputed with Stephen.”**
- C. His wisdom resulted in conflict (10-15) - “But they could not withstand the wisdom and the Spirit with which he was speaking. 11 Then they secretly instigated men who said, “We have heard him speak blasphemous words against Moses and God.” 12 And they stirred up the people and the elders and the scribes, and they came upon him and seized him and brought him before the council, 13 and they set up false witnesses who said, “This man never ceases to speak words against this holy place and the law, 14 for we have heard him say that this Jesus of Nazareth will destroy this place and will change the customs that Moses delivered to us.” 15 And gazing at him, all who sat in the council saw that his face was like the face of an angel.”**

II. Stephen's Scriptural Witness (7:1-53)

- A. He gave the history of Israel patriarchs (1-16) - Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph**
- B. He gave the history of Israel's Lawgiver (17-38) - Moses versus Pharaoh, the exodus from Egypt**
- C. He gave the history of Israel's stubbornness (39-53) - the golden calf, pagan idols, rejection of prophets, the rejection of Messiah**

**We see in the life of Stephen the 2 pillars of New Testament Christianity:
the power of the Holy Spirit (6:8) & the authority of the Scriptures (7:1-53)**

III. Stephen's Sublime Worship (54-60)

- A. He was bold before his foes (54) - “Now when they heard these things they were enraged, and they ground their teeth at him.”**
- B. He was privileged in his focus (55-56) - “But he, full of the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. 56 And he said, “Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God.””**
- C. He was faithful unto his finish (57-59) - “But they cried out with a loud voice and stopped their ears and rushed together at him. 58 Then they cast him out of the city and stoned him. And the witnesses laid down their garments at the feet of a young man named Saul. 59 And as they were stoning Stephen, he called out, “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.””**
- D. He was remarkable with his forgiveness (60) - “And falling to his knees he cried out with a loud voice, “Lord, do not hold this sin against them.” And when he had said this, he fell asleep.”**