



Acts: To the Ends of the Earth

Acts 6:8-15

Introduction

- ❖ Acts 1:8—*...But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.*
- ❖ Acts 6:7—*the word of God continued to increase, and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests became obedient to the faith.*
 1. The godliness that was cultivated in Stephen
 2. The power that was given to Stephen
 3. The accusations against Stephen

The godliness cultivated in Stephen

- ❖ Acts 6:3—*pick out from among you seven men of good repute, full of the Spirit and of wisdom*
- ❖ Acts 6:5—*they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit*

❖ Acts 6:8

1. A Good Reputation

- ❖ Proverbs 22:1—*A good name is to be chosen rather than great riches, and favor is better than silver or gold.*

2. Full of the Spirit

- ❖ Galatians 5:22—*But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.*

3. Full of Wisdom

- ❖ 2 Timothy 4:15—*the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.*
- ❖ 1 Peter 3:15—*...honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you;*

4. Full of Faith

- ❖ James 2:18—*But someone will say, "You have faith and I have works." Show me your faith apart from your works, and I will show you my faith by my works.*

5. Full of Grace and Power



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- ❖ 1 Peter 3:15—*but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect,*
- ❖ Ephesians 4:15—*speaking the truth in love*

The power given to Stephen

❖ Acts 6:9-10

- ❖ 2 Timothy 2:25—*correcting his opponents with gentleness...*
...God may perhaps grant them repentance leading to a knowledge of the truth,

The accusations against Stephen

❖ Acts 6:11-14

1. He spoke against the Law of Moses

- ❖ John 1:29—*...the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!*
- ❖ Hebrews 9:12-15—*[Jesus] entered once for all into the holy places, not by means of the blood of goats and calves but by means of his own blood, thus securing an eternal redemption. For if the blood of goats and bulls, and the sprinkling of defiled persons with the ashes of a heifer, sanctify for the purification of the flesh, how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without blemish to God, purify our conscience from dead works to serve the living God.*

Therefore he is the mediator of a new covenant, so that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance,

2. He spoke against God

- ❖ Deuteronomy 6:4—*Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one.*

3. He spoke against the Temple

- ❖ John 2:19—*“Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.”*
- ❖ John 2:21—*But he was speaking about the temple of his body.*
- ❖ Hebrews 9:11—*the greater and more perfect...*

❖ Acts 6:15

- ❖ Deuteronomy 34:29—*When Moses came down from Mount Sinai, with the two tablets of the testimony in his hand as he came down from the mountain, Moses did not know that the skin of his face shone because he had been talking with God.*



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- ❖ 2 Corinthians 3:7-8—*Now if the ministry of death, carved in letters on stone, came with such glory that the Israelites could not gaze at Moses 'face because of its glory, which was being brought to an end, will not the ministry of the Spirit have even more glory?*
- ❖ 2 Corinthians 3:18—*And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.*