

Q: (vv.54-58) God's Truth convicted the council. When confronted with truth they could not refute, how did they respond? How do you respond when convicted of God's truth?

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Q: (vv.55-56, 59-60) What did Stephen see in his final moments and how did he respond to his attackers? How does this compare with Jesus' final moments on the cross? (Luke 23:34)

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Q: (vv.55-56) Jesus is often described as *sitting* at the right hand (of authority) of the Father in heaven (Mk 14:62; Heb 12:2). Here, Jesus is *standing*, seemingly to greet the first Christian martyr into heaven. Why is it important to keep our eyes fixed on Jesus, seeking his daily strength and direction, even in difficult times?

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Q: (7:58; 8:1) Stephen's death was not in vain. Saul (Paul) witnessed it and never forgot it (22:20). How might have this had an impact on his eventual conversion to Jesus? (see 9:1-9).

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Q: God can use a trial as an opportunity for our witness to impact someone else. How have you been impacted by the faith of others in the midst of their trials? How might others be impacted by you, led by the Holy Spirit, in the midst of your trials?

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# Harvest Growing Deeper

Evangelical Free Church

A Disciplemaking Tool of Harvest Evangelical Free Church  
(for personal and/or small group study)

Week of July 12, 2020

Acts 6:8-7:60

*The Apostles boldly proclaimed Jesus and told the religious authorities who were opposed to their teaching, (5:29) "we must obey God rather than you." In Chapter 6, there was discrimination taking place against the Greek-speaking widows. A church meeting was called and through much prayer, seven Greek-speaking men, filled with the Holy Spirit, were selected to address that issue. One of them was Stephen, whom this next section addresses.*

Q: Someone once defined courage as not the *absence* of fear, but the *mastery* of fear. Describe a time when God gave you courage to do something for His glory.

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Q: (6:8) How is Stephen described and how does this compare with the ministry of the apostles?

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Q: (6:9-14) Describe the opposition against Stephen (what did they specifically accuse him of) and how does this treatment compare with the opposition against Jesus, leading up to his crucifixion?

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Q: (6:10, 15) How was it evident that Stephen was filled with the Holy Spirit (6:5)? (see Luke 21:14-15). How can others see the impact of the Holy Spirit in your life?

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Q: Describe a time when you had the opportunity to share your faith in Christ and the Holy Spirit brought to mind, words/verses that perhaps you didn't plan to share but were powerful! (If you have not had this experience yet, pray for Holy Spirit led boldness and opportunities to share your faith with others you encounter).

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Q: (7:2-8) Stephen provided the council with a Jewish history lesson in his testimony. He first describes Abraham, whom God promised the land, but he did not possess it in his lifetime. He then describes Joseph and his initial rejection by his brothers (9-16); Moses and his initial rejection by the Hebrew people in Egypt (17-39); and Jesus' rejection by the Jews (51-53). What point was Stephen trying to get across, pointing out various ways Israel rejected God's servants? How did Moses point to Jesus (v.37)?

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Q: (vv.38-43) God's Law given to Moses, was meant to set the people apart and protect them from pagan influence around them, and to show their need for forgiveness, redemption through a Savior. How did the people reject the Law God gave to Moses? \_\_\_\_\_

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Q: (vv.44-50) The Jews were proud of their land and the Temple, thinking it was the holiest place on earth, assuming God must dwell among them. How did Stephen essentially destroy this myth? (see 7:9, 30-34, 36-38)

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Q: What did Stephen remind the council about Moses and God's Law? (see 7:22, 35-43, 53)

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Q: (vv.51-53) The Jewish leaders were trusting in empty rituals rather than the grace of the One True God. They lived in the land God promised to them. They had the Temple of God (but lacked true worship). They had the Law of Moses (but failed to obey it). It was no surprise that they even rejected their only hope, their promised Messiah, the only One who could save them. Stephen did not answer the false charges brought against him, but instead he brought charges of his own against the Jewish leaders! How did he "bring the hammer down" at the end of his speech? How did his history lesson show their hypocrisy?

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Q: What empty rituals do we hang onto today & why do we hang onto them? \_\_\_\_\_

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