

Welcome to the Worship Celebration of



SIMPLY BIBLICAL | FAMILY INTEGRATED

Church – The Beginnings, Part 20

Stephen – the First Martyr of the Church – Part 1

Acts 6:8 – 8:4



1. Stephen – one of the 7 Deacons from Acts 6:1-7 (a man full of faith and the Holy Spirit)

→ And Stephen, full of faith and power, did great wonders and signs among the people (vs 8)

He's a Leader – a Servant Team Leader – leading other servants (see 1 Timothy 3:8-13 - of the Leaders of 1000's, 100's, 50's & 10's)

He was being faithful in his service to the Widows, leading his team.

→ FAITHFUL

He was also being used by God toward those OUTSIDE of the Body, the Lost

→ OBEDIENT To the Great Commission

God WILL use anyone who is sold-out to Jesus Christ, fully surrendered to Christ.

2. Opposition: Synagogue of the Freedmen

This opposition “arose” – so it was not overnight, but it built up to the point of full force.

Acts 6:10 shows that Stephen wasn't just putting on a magic show, but he was spreading the Gospel of Christ, and using God's Supernatural, Biblical Wisdom to reason with those he was sharing the Gospel to. The Great Wonders and Signs were being used by God, through Stephen, to Confirm the Message that Stephen was Preaching/Teaching (God's Ways – Hebrews 2:1-4)

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Opposition, Persecution and even Martyrdom are Par for the Course: Predicted & Expected

Reference: Matthew 5:10-12; 10:16-23; 2 Timothy 3:12

We will not suffer any form of persecution if we hide out and never say anything for Christ’s sake. We will experience opposition **ONLY WHEN we Speak Out, **WHEN** we Spread the Gospel, when we Stand Up for God’s Righteousness ... and that is what we see here in Acts 6:8 – 8:4**

3. LIFE LESSONS?

- a. Seek to be used of God, no matter your “station” in life or your “station” within the Body of Christ.**
- b. Be Prepared for Opposition, it will happen. Don't be shocked, Be Prepared. (Matthew 5:10-12; 10:16-23; 2 Timothy 3:12)**
- c. Know the Word of God, all of it, Genesis thru Revelation
(2 Timothy 2:15; 3:16-4:4)**
- d. When you experience Opposition: be Kind, be Truthful, be Faithful, be Prayerful like Stephen was. He saw those who opposed him and wanted them all to be saved.
(Never Compromise the Truth of God's Word – John 17:17)**

**Let's Worship God ... Because of Who He is,
For What He has done, and What He is Yet
to do → He is the GREAT GOD, ALMIGHTY
WHO HAS ALL CONTROL OVER THE
WHOLE UNIVERSE and TIME...**

**ALL POWERFUL ALMIGHTY GOD
The GOD of ISRAEL**

