⁸And Stephen, full of grace and power, was doing great wonders and signs among the people. ⁹Then 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. ¹⁰But they could not withstand the wisdom and the Spirit with which he was speaking.

"Then they secretly instigated men who said, "We have heard him speak blasphemous words against Moses and God." ¹²And 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, ¹³and they set up false witnesses who said,

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"This man never ceases to speak words against this holy place and the law, ¹⁴for we have heard him say that this Jesus of Nazareth will destroy this place and will change the customs that Moses delivered to us."

¹⁵And gazing at him, all who sat in the council saw that his face was like the face of an angel. —Acts 6:8-15 ESV

they were enraged, and they ground their teeth at him. ⁵⁵But he, full of the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. ⁵⁶And he said, "Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God."

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⁵⁷But they cried out with a loud voice and stopped their ears and rushed together at him. ⁵⁸Then 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.

59And as they were stoning
Stephen, he called out,
"Lord Jesus, receive my spirit."
60And 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. —Acts 7:54-60 ESV

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A Brief Biography on Stephen's Life
A Common Man With High
Character and a Holy Life

And gazing at him, all who sat in the council saw that his face was like the face of an angel.—Acts 6:15 ESV

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A Brief Biography on Stephen's Life A Transitional Personality in Christian History (Acts 6:6; 7:58) A Brief Biography on Stephen's Life

A Catalytic Force in Church Growth
(Acts 8:1, 4)

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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 1:8 ESV

A Brief Biography on Stephen's Life

A Witness to Christ Who Became
the First Martyr for Christ

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witness = martus or martur (Gk)
martyr = one who bears witness
even by death

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The Indelible Testimony of Stephen's Witness

Lesson on Faith

(Acts 6:5)

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"While faith alone saves, faith is not always safe." persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

IBlessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on My account. IRejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you."—Matthew 5:10-12 ESV

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Am I a soldier of the cross,
A follower of the Lamb?
And shall I fear to own His cause
Or blush to speak His name?

Must I be carried to the skies
On flowery beds of ease?
While others fought to win the prize,
And sailed through bloody seas?

Are there no foes for me to face?

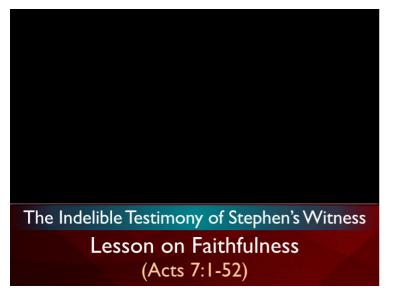
Must I not stem the flood?

Is this vile world a friend to grace,

To help me on to God?

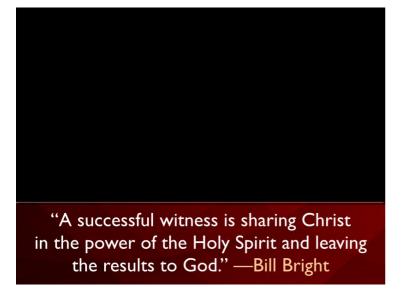
Sure I must fight, if I would reign
Increase my courage, Lord!
I'll bear the toil, endure the pain,
Supported by Thy word.—Isaac Watts

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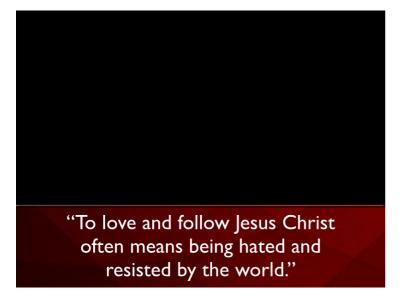


The Indelible Testimony of Stephen's Witness

Lesson on Fury

(Acts 7:54)

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The Indelible Testimony of Stephen's Witness

Lesson on Freedom

"Don't despise your liberty, but liberate the gospel through your life and witness for Christ."

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Three Doctrinal Foundations

Separation of Powers Legislative, Executive, Judicial

Freedom of Religion (Not "Freedom from Religion")

Rule of Constitutional Law (Due Process and Personal Representation)

Remember those who are in prison, as though in prison with them, and those who are mistreated, since you also are in the body.

—Hebrews 13:3 ESV

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The Indelible Testimony of Stephen's Witness

Lesson on Forgiveness

(Acts 7:60)

"Forgiveness may not resolve your injury, but it will release God's authority in the life of others."

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59And as they were stoning Stephen, he called out, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." 60And 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.

—Acts 7:59-60 ESV

Matthew 18:18

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The Indelible Testimony of Stephen's Witness

Lesson on Fear

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"There is reality greater than death; it is the triumph of Christ over the grave."

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And when they bring you before the synagogues and the rulers and the authorities, do not be anxious about how you should defend yourself or what you should say.

—Luke 12:11 ESV

13But rejoice insofar as you share Christ's sufferings, that you may also rejoice and be glad when His glory is revealed. 14If you are insulted for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you... 19Therefore let those who suffer according to God's will entrust their souls to a faithful Creator while doing good.—I Peter 4:13-14, 19 ESV

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