



Acts

THE CHURCH IN MOTION

Acts 6:8-7:60
DEAD OR ALIVE

8 And Stephen, full of grace and power, was doing great wonders and signs among the people. 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. 10 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.

Acts 6:8-15 (ESV)

**God is with Stephen even in the face of
opposition.**

**“Indeed, all who desire to live a godly life
in Christ Jesus will be persecuted.”**

1 Timothy 3:12

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opposition.**

**Stephen marvelously reveals their dead
hearts and idols.**

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The Land

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7:5: “Yet he gave him no inheritance in it, not even a foot’s length.”

7:9: “And the patriarchs, jealous of Joseph, sold him into Egypt; but God was with him.”

7:33: “Then the Lord said to him, ‘Take off the sandals from your feet, for the place where you are standing is holy ground.’”

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**The Land
The Law**

7:39: “Our fathers refused to obey him, but thrust him aside, and in their hearts they turned to Egypt.”

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7:53: “you who received the law as delivered by angels, but did not keep it.”

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**The Land
The Law
The Temple**

7:48-50: “Yet the Most High does not dwell in houses made by hands, as the prophet says, ‘Heaven is my throne, and the earth is my footstool. What kind of house will you build for me, says the Lord, or what is the place of my rest? Did not my hand make all these things?’”

7:51-53: “You stiff-necked people, uncircumcised in heart and ears, you always resist the Holy Spirit. As your fathers did, so do you. 52 Which of the prophets did your fathers not persecute? And they killed those who announced beforehand the coming of the Righteous One, whom you have now betrayed and murdered, 53 you who received the law as delivered by angels and did not keep it.”

Don't be religious and dead.

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**You can't make yourself alive or give yourself eternal
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Jesus didn't die for "good people." He died for sinners.

7:54-60: “54 Now when they heard these things they were enraged, and they ground their teeth at him. 55 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.” 57 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.” 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.”

**God is with Stephen even in the face of
opposition.**

**Stephen marvelously reveals their dead
hearts and idols.**

God is with Stephen even in death.



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