

## ***Living And Dying For Jesus” – Acts 6:8 – 7:53***

**INTRODUCTION:** The early church is GROWING!

- Satan now turns to Stephen – 6:5
- “*full of faith*” – 6:5, 6:8

6:8 – Stephen is out preaching in “*power*” – 1:8

6:9 – Opposition from the Greek-speaking Synagogue.

6:10 – They can’t compete with Stephen’s “*wisdom*” – James 1:5  
- Don’t face your trials alone ... pray for God’s “*wisdom*”.

6:11 – False accusations – Mt. 5:11-12, Mark 14:55-56.

6:12 – Brought before the Sanhedrin – 2 Timothy 3:12

6:13 – They bring CHARGES against Stephen.

1 Preaching Against The TEMPLE – i.e., that animal sacrifices were no longer needed – Hebrews 9:28

- The “*priests*” offered the sacrifices at the Temple – 6:7

1 Preaching Against The LAW – Stephen preached that Jesus FULFILLED the Law of Moses.

- This is considered “*radical*” today – Ephesians 2:8-9  
- It doesn’t matter what YOU’VE done, but what JESUS DID.

6:14 – The same charges were made against Jesus – John 2:18-21

6:15 – Compare the face of Moses – Exodus 34:30

- Stephen radiated the love of Jesus in his face – cp. 7:54
- Stephen didn’t just HAVE the Holy Spirit, but the Holy Spirit HAD HIM.

7:1 – Stephen given the opportunity to defend himself.

- The Jews had always persecuted God’s prophets – 7:52

7:48 – Salvation doesn’t come from the customs of the Temple.

- God isn’t limited to a building – 1 Cor. 3:16, 1 Cor. 6:19
- Their relationship to God revolved around the Temple.

7:51 – “*stiff-necked*” – They couldn’t see God’s blessing His Church.

7:53 – Stephen mentions “*angels*” ... THEN ... 7:54

**CONCLUSION:**

- Stephen was willing to LIVE for Christ, even if it meant DYING for Christ ... Jesus is IN CHARGE!