

See How They Grew: - (7) Their Courage

Acts 6.1-8-8.4

Stephen - the first Christian martyr
2 Tim 3.12; John 16.2

1. His Radiant Character, 6.1-10

- **a face like an angel** 6.15; Ex 34.29
2 Cor 3.7-18
- **brilliant, yet caring** 6.10,3,8,1
- **shaped by what filled him**
 - **God's Holy Spirit** vs 3,5
 - **wisdom** v3; Prov 9.10
 - **faith** v5; Eph 3.20
 - **grace** v8; John 1.14
 - **power** v8; 2 Chr 16.9

**What price are we willing to pay
for God's power?**

2. His Compelling Message, 6.11-7.54

- **designed to refute accusations about God's Temple & Law 6.13-14**
 - ◆ **Jesus replaces the Temple**
John 2.18-21; Mat 12.6
 - ◆ **Jesus fulfils the Law Mat 5.17-18**
- **demonstrates that God is not confined to a building 7.48; 2 Chron 6.18**
 - ◆ **Abraham – God appeared v2**
 - ◆ **Joseph – God helped v9**
 - ◆ **Moses – God called vs30-33**
 - ◆ **David – no temple! v46**
- **draws attention to Jews' rejection**
 - ◆ **of Moses vs25,27,39**
 - ◆ **of Jesus, God's Prophet-Saviour vs 25,35,37, 51-53**
 - **God isn't bound by buildings**
 - **we must be open to his Spirit**

3. His Christlike Death, 7.55-8.4

- ***inspired by a vision of Jesus vs55f
as he is now
- ready to welcome us home***
- ***his spirit committed to Jesus v59
like Master, like servant Lk 23.46***
- ***he sought forgiveness v60
for his executioners Lk 23.34***
- ***far-reaching consequences
for one individual 8.1,3
for the whole church 8.1,4***

***God is always working for the best
Gen 50.20; Rom 8.28***