

I. THE GOSPEL GOES FORTH WITH POWER

Acts 6:8 And Stephen, full of faith and power, did great wonders and signs among the people.

The fullness of the Holy Spirit, gifts, power, faith, etc. are available to everyone.

We are called to reach out to a world that is hurting and lonely.

II. THE WISDOM FROM ABOVE

Acts 6:10 And they were not able to resist the wisdom and the Spirit by which he spoke.

God wants to release to us a wisdom that is beyond our own understanding. It's the wisdom of heaven.

James 3:17 But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality and without hypocrisy.

2 Tim. 2:23-25 But avoid foolish and ignorant disputes, knowing that they generate strife. ²⁴ And a servant of the Lord must not quarrel but be gentle to all, able to teach, patient, ²⁵ in humility correcting those who are in opposition, if God perhaps will grant them repentance, so that they may know the truth.

Don't argue with people. Explain and teach the truth to those who are seeking, but don't get into disputes.

III. JESUS AT THE RIGHT HAND OF GOD

IV. UNDERSTANDING GOD'S HEART FOR THE LOST

Live free from the burden of sin. Forgive as you have been forgiven (Matt. 6:14-15). Stephen was a man whose heart is feeling the emotions of God for people.

V. WHERE ARE YOU HEADED IN LIFE? ARE YOU LIVING FOR GOD OR FOR YOURSELF?

Stephen's response: "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." He knew where he was going, who He was living for. Do you know where you are headed? Lift up your head, look. Think about how you are living your life. Are you headed to Jesus? Will Jesus receive your spirit when your journey is done? Is *Jesus* at your finish line? Or are your goals, dreams, and purpose in life someone or something else?

Jesus is seated at the right hand of God (Acts 2:34; Eph. 1:20; Heb. 12:2) because His work is accomplished. Jesus is seated because He is secure. Why does He stand up for Stephen?