

# STEPHEN, THE MAN GOD CROWNED Acts 6–7

## Stephen the Servant (Acts 6:1–7)

There are two words for “crown” in the New Testament

> *diadema*, which means “\_\_\_\_\_ crown” which is inherited

> *stephanos*, the “\_\_\_\_\_ crown,” which is earned and we get the name “Stephen” from.

*But if you remain faithful even when facing death, I will give you the crown of life. Rev. 2:10*

Other Crowns mentioned in the Bible that we can earn.....

*Crown of Incorruption*—I Corinthians 9:25

*Crown of Rejoicing*—I Thessalonians 2:19

*Crown of Life*—James 1:12, Revelation 2:10

*Crown of Glory*—I Peter 5:4

*Crown of righteousness*—2 Timothy 4:8

*But as the believers rapidly multiplied, there were rumblings of discontent (6:1). A church that is winning people to Christ and discipling them will encounter \_\_\_\_\_!*

## What other things can result in church problems?

*their widows were being discriminated against in the daily distribution of food. (6:1) see 1 Timothy 5:5*

*So the Twelve called a meeting of all..... (6:2) Church leaders must solve problems not ignore them!*

The Apostles shouldered the blame by realizing they were getting caught up in neglecting priorities!

They appointed leaders to handle this need. Needs to change with time. Churches must be \_\_\_\_\_.

**Were these men the first “deacons?”** Probably not. While word *diakonos* is used but the word only means “servant” Qualifications of the office of deacon is given later in I Timothy.

What was the result of this change? The blessing of God continued and increased! The church was still \_\_\_\_\_(5), \_\_\_\_\_(7), and \_\_\_\_\_(8).

## Stephen the Witness (Acts 6:8–15)

<sup>9</sup> *But one day some men from the Synagogue of Freed Slaves (6:9) Every area had their own synagogue organized. Saul [Paul] was from Tarsus in Cilicia (Acts 21:39). Remember, later in Acts 22:28 Paul shares this truth of citizenship. Interestingly, Saul could not win the debate with Stephen. But, later would be a “Stephen” in his own right.*

The emphasis in Stephen's life is on fullness: He was full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom (3, 10), full of faith (5), and full of power (8). In Scripture, to be "full of" means "\_\_\_\_\_". This man was controlled by the Spirit, faith, wisdom, and power.

Stephen's testimony would be the last big presentation to the \_\_\_\_\_. After this we see the Samaritans and the Gentiles in focus. All three keys of the Kingdom will be used soon.

<sup>11</sup> So they persuaded some men to lie about Stephen, (6:11) Very similar strategy?

<sup>15</sup> At this point everyone in the high council stared at Stephen, because his face became as bright as an angel's (6:15) [see Exodus 34:29-34]..... [Chapter 7] <sup>54</sup> The Jewish leaders were infuriated by Stephen's accusation, and they shook their fists at him in rage. (7:54)

What a contrast between Christianity and \_\_\_\_\_.

### **Stephen the Judge (Acts 7:1–53) A powerful and truthful sermon.**

They misunderstood their own \_\_\_\_\_ (1–8)

They rejected their God-sent \_\_\_\_\_ (9–36)

They disobeyed their \_\_\_\_\_ (37–43)

They despised their \_\_\_\_\_ (44–50)

They stubbornly \_\_\_\_\_ their God & His truth (51–53). Stephen full of the Holy Spirit really let them have it you could say. There is a time for mending wounds but also a time for calling out sin.

### **Stephen the Martyr (Acts 7:54–60)**

*His accusers took off their coats and laid them at the feet of a young man named Saul. (7:58)*

This event stuck in Saul's mind and brought later conviction.

<sup>59</sup> As they stoned him, Stephen prayed, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." <sup>60</sup> He fell to his knees, shouting, "Lord, don't charge them with this sin!" And with that, he died. (7:59-60)

What are some parallels here to their treatment of Jesus as Stephen dies?

#### **Answers:**

Royal, Victory's, Growing Pains, Flexible, Unified, Multiplied, Magnified,  
To Be Controlled By, Jews, Religion, Spiritual Roots, Deliverers, Laws,  
Temple, Resisted