

FEATURES OF STEPHEN'S GREATNESS — ACTS 6-7

1 HIS CHOOSING

Ac.6:3-5

³Therefore, brethren, seek out from among you seven men of good reputation, full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business; ⁴but we will give ourselves continually to prayer and to the ministry of the word." ⁵And the saying pleased the whole multitude. And they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and the Holy Spirit, and Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolas, a proselyte from Antioch, (Ac.6:3-5)

- Out of those 20,000 to 30,000 Christians they were to pick 7 men full of the Holy Spirit.
- And who is the number one name on the list? Stephen. That gives you a little idea of what kind of a man he was.
- For a man to be approved by those who know him best is the epitome of approval.

2 HIS CHARACTER

Ac.6:5,8

...⁵And they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and the Holy Spirit... ⁸And Stephen, full of faith and power, did great wonders and signs among the people. (Ac.6:5,8)

A Stephen Was Full of Faith

- There wasn't any doubt around him. He *trusted* God.

B Stephen Was Full the Holy Spirit

- He was totally dominated by the Spirit of God, which meant he *obeyed*.

C Stephen Was Full of Power

- Where did he get that power? Verse 5, he was full of the Holy Spirit.
- Those 7 men are special men. Stephen is more like a New Testament prophet.



Ac.6:5

Ac.6:5

Ac.6:8

3 HIS COURAGE

Ac.6:9-14

- They couldn't handle Stephen in a debate. One Spirit-controlled mind was more than a match for the assembled minds.
- In a very heated debate, over critical issues, when you lose the debate, what's the next tactic? Slander.
- Stephen had two things that every good speaker needs: CONTENT and DELIVERY. They couldn't handle either.

4 HIS COUNTENANCE

Ac.6:15

And all who sat in the council, looking steadfastly at him, saw his face as the face of an angel. (Ac.6:15)

- That is one of the greatest rebukes by God in Scripture (2Co.3:7-11).
- God made Moses' face shine showing His approval. God made Stephen's face shine to show His approval.
- God is saying, "Both Moses and Stephen were mine. And their message was true."

5 HIS CONFESSION

Ac.7:1-50

- The message of Stephen demonstrates his confession of what he believed.

6 HIS CONCLUSION

Ac.7:51-53

- Stephen's conclusion tells them the indictment they needed to hear.