

# ACTS

## CHAPTER 6:8-15

MEDIA REFERENCE NUMBER SMX 167

TITLE:

### A WITNESSING CHURCH - PART 1

THEME:

Acts 1:8

“But you shall receive **power** when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and “**you shall be witnesses to Me**” in **Jerusalem**, and in all **Judea** and **Samaria**, and to the **end of the earth.**“

In Your Christian Experience,  
Do you see yourself being **Victimized**  
by the World around you

*or*

Do you see yourself being **Victorious**  
by the Spirit within you

“A WITNESSING CHURCH”  
*is an awesome weapon in the hands of a Loving God*

Acts 22:15

For you will be His witness to all men of what you have *seen* and *heard*.

Witness

GRK **Martus (mar'-toos)**

a literal witness in a judicial sense.

one who records or recounts, “**a martyr**”

How, When, Why are we to Witness.  
*Tips from the Life of Stephen*

- An Interesting Note;

- 1.) Stephen was one of the Hellenists (*Greek speaking Jew*)
- 2.) He was probably from this very synagogue (*home*)
- 3.) He's a lot like us today (*going back to those whom we love*)

- The Name Stephen means; “The Victor's Crown”

*And in the New Testament there are two words for crown:*

- Diadema, “A Royal Crown by birth”
- Stephanos, “An Achievers Crown, Received or Earned”

- Stephen in a Real a Way is a “*type of the believer.*” As the reward that Jesus will receive when the church is removed from the earth.

## The Various Judgments found in the Bible

*All of them are yet future. Some are in relationship to Gentile nations and how they treat Israel in the last days (Matthew 25). Another is that of those who die not receiving Jesus as Savior (Revelation 20:11)*

### Utah’s Zion National Park Great White Throne Judgment

Then there is  
The Judgment Seat of Christ

**2 Corinthians 5:10**

**For we (the believers) must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.**

**Seat**            **GRK**            **bema (bay'-ma)** a step up, i.e. foot-span a platform

Stephen’s Witness Comes as *a natural outgrowth of church revival;*

**Acts 6:7**

**And** the word of God spread, and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem,

## 1.) Be Ready For the World

*vv. 8*

Verse 8

### And Stephen, Full of Faith & Power

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**Faith**            **GRK**    **pistis (pis'-tis)**  
a faith that’s **persuasive**, assurance, Graceful.

**Power**            **GRK**    **dunamis (doo'-nam-is);**  
**force**, strength, tenacious mighty

**Full**              **GRK**    **pleres (play'-race)**  
covered up and over

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To be full or to be filled,  
*assumes that we can be full or filled.*  
*before we can be filled we must assume that we are empty.*

emptied of “self-life” and there are many books and authors that tell us that we must put down self, destroy self, beat self...

We need to simply lose self

**Matthew 16:25**

**"For whoever desires to save his life will lose it,  
but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it.**

**lose** GRK **apollumi** (ap-ol'-loo-mee) to turn lose, *to mar*, to let die.

**"I" Tried to Empty Myself,  
but the "I" part got in the way**

**1 Peter 3:15**

But sanctify (set apart) the Lord God in your hearts, and always be ready to give a **defense** to everyone who asks you, a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and respect;

**defense** GRK **apologia** (ap-ol-og-ee'-ah)  
a plea, a cry, an issuance, testimony of proof. **Apologetics**

**Knowing, therefore, the fear** (awesome being) **of the Lord, we persuade** (influence or convince) **men; -2**  
**Corinthians 5:11**

@ Home, @ Work, @ Church @ Vacation

1.) Be Ready *For the World* *vv. 8*

2.) **Be Right** *Before the World* *vv. 9-10*

David Hume once was seen *attending one of George Whitefield's Crusades and a man noticing him asked "why are you coming out to hear Whitefield, you don't even believe in what he preaches?" and David Hume said "that's right, I don't believe in what he preaches...but he does"*

**2 Timothy 1:12**

...I am not ashamed, **for I know** whom I have believed and am persuaded that He is able to keep what I have committed to Him until that Day.

**Know** GRK **eido** (i'-do) to be keenly aware of, to have divine perception

Students Note This:

The "Freedmen" were Ex-slaves or Liberated Ones

*The Organized Opposition once again comes from the "Representatives of Religion "*

Not able to **Contradict** or **ignore**

*The spirit by which he spoke was the Holy Spirit, who was able to speak through him not only upon Stephen, but filled up with*

## “Not Able to Resist the Wisdom”

a winsomeness or divine enthusiasm which rendered them powerless

### James 3:17

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.

### Luke 21:15

"for I will give you a mouth and **wisdom** which all your adversaries will not be able to **contradict** or **resist**."

## You Can Be Right

1.) Be Ready *For the World* vv. 8

2.) Be Right *Before the World* vv. 9-10

3.) Be Resting *In the World* vv. 11-14

### Verse 11

- 1st **“They Secretly induced”**  
*Or bought men off*

### Verse 12

- 2nd **“They Stirred up the people”**  
*Like snakes from off the jungle floor.*

### Verse 13

- 3rd **“They Set up false witnesses”**  
*To the believer in Judaism, The Temple was the touchstone for the forgiveness of sins, for their relationship between man & God. it was the icon of everything meaningful .*

**When We Witness (*live it out*) Those around us will be “pressured” to make a Decision... Yes or No, but pressured.**

### Verse 14

Stephen was guilty *of stealing a sermon from Jesus !!!*

- *Jesus did say that the temple was going to be destroyed (i.e. **His body**).*
- *He did say that The Temple would be destroyed in **Matthew 24***
- *At this point, they were less than nine years away from that fulfillment.*

### John 2:19-21

Jesus answered and said to them, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up." :20 Then the Jews said, "It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and will You raise it up in three days?" :21 But He was speaking of the temple of His body.

Jesus said that He would fulfill, not change the law, but complete it...  
but they were not willing to believe it

1.) Be Ready *For the World* *vv. 8*

2.) Be Right *Before the World* *vv. 9-10*

3.) Be Resting *In the World* *vv. 11-14*

4.) Be Radiant *To the World* *vv. 15*

**“Looked Steadfastly”** To stare with great “intensity of effort”  
**“Saw”** perceived clearly

*John 9:5*

**As long as I am in the world**, I am the light of the world.

*Matthew 5:14*

**"You are the light of the world.** A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden.

*Matthew 5:16*

**Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven. or they'll turn on you and condemn you to death.**

>>>>> The Patience of God <<<<<<

Because of their zeal for the law and their “supposed” knowledge of it.

**God Illuminates Stephen’s face like Moses.**

DISPLAYING HIS APPROVAL OF STEPHEN

Certainly Stephen’s Attitude was...

*Acts 20:24*

"But none of these things move me; nor do I count my life dear to myself, so that I may finish my race with joy, and the ministry which I received from the Lord Jesus, **to testify (be a witness)** to the gospel of the grace of God.

**Chapter 7:1**

Then the high priest said... **“are these things so?”**

The Open door / Crack of Ministry

## Some Things We Need to Do

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*The Greatest “Spiritual Character” Recorded in Scripture was that of King David  
Adultery, Lying, which resulted in Murder*

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**Psalm 51:12-13**

**Restore to me the joy of Your salvation, and uphold me by Your generous Spirit. :13 Then I will teach transgressors Your ways, and sinners shall be converted to You.**

**Hebrews 12:1**

**Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us,**

**“Remember now your Creator in the days of your youth”**

*Disney’s* **Aladdin**

WELCOME TO

**JURASSIC PARK**

**“Remember now your Creator in the days of your youth”**

*Eccles 12:1*