

Study Guide for Sept. 5th, 2004. Stephen, A Godly Example – Acts 6:8-15

Introduction: Describe a person you've encountered who radiated the presence of Christ.

I. A man FILLED with the Holy Spirit.

Eph. 5:18, "Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Holy Spirit." The issue is one of control. Who or what is controlling you? Consider the following references to see WHO controlled Stephen. Let his example inspire you.

- 1) Acts 6:3:
- 2) Acts 6:5:
- 3) Acts 6:8a:

Reflect on Rom. 13:11-14. What steps could you take to, "Clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ and do not think about how to gratify the desires of the sinful nature?"

II. A man EMPOWERED by the Holy Spirit.

In Acts 1:8 Jesus said, "You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you."

- 1) What did the apostles do to Stephen and the other deacons? (Acts 6:6)
- 2) Note the report of what Stephen did (Acts 6:8b)

Reflect on John 14:16-17, 15:26-27 & 16:13-15. Prayerfully consider how the Holy Spirit might empower you to provide greater witness for Christ?

III. A man INSTRUCTED by the Holy Spirit (when falsely accused).

Jesus promised his followers, "When you are brought before rulers . . . The Holy Spirit will teach you at that time what you should say. . . I will give you words and wisdom that none of your adversaries will be able to resist or contradict." (Luke 12:12, 21:15)

- 1) What were the accusations lodged against Stephen? (Acts 6:11-14)
- 2) What had Jesus taught (which Stephen repeated)? (Matt. 5:17-20, John 2:19-22)

Reflect on I Pet. 3:13-16. How can you be better prepared to an answer everyone who asks you for the reason for the hope that you have in Christ?

IV. A man RADIATING the presence of the Holy Spirit.

Reflect on Acts 6:15 (Stephen's face like that of an angel). Compare with Ex. 34:29.

Think about the promise found in I John 3:1-3. How do these examples inspire you?