**Living Above The Fray**

**Acts 6:8-15**

***8****And Stephen, full of grace and power, was doing great wonders and signs among the people.****9****Then some of those who belonged to the synagogue of the Freedmen (as it was called), and of the Cyrenians, and of the Alexandrians, and of those from Cilicia and Asia, rose up and disputed with Stephen.****10****But they could not withstand the wisdom and the Spirit with which he was speaking.****11****Then they secretly instigated men who said, “We have heard him speak blasphemous words against Moses and God.”****12****And they stirred up the people and the elders and the scribes, and they came upon him and seized him and brought him before the council,****13****and they set up false witnesses who said, “This man never ceases to speak words against this holy place and the law,****14****for we have heard him say that this Jesus of Nazareth will destroy this place and will change the customs that Moses delivered to us.”****15****And gazing at him, all who sat in the council saw that his face was like the face of an angel.*

I. The CHARACTER He Possessed

**A. Full of the SPIRIT**

*Pick out from among you seven men of good repute, full of the Spirit…*Acts 6:3

***18****And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit,****19****addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart.* Ephesians 5:18

*But he, full of the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God.* Acts 7:55

**B. Full of WISDOM**

*full of the Spirit and of wisdom*… Acts 6:3

*But they could not withstand the wisdom and the Spirit with which he was speaking.* Acts 6:10

*Then some of those who belonged to the synagogue of the Freedmen (as it was called), and of the Cyrenians, and of the Alexandrians, and of those from Cilicia and Asia.* Acts 6:9

**C. Full of FAITH**

*Stephen, a man full of faith…* Acts 6:5

**D. Full of GRACE**

*Stephen, full of grace*

**E. Full of POWER**

*and power*

II. The COMPLAINTS He Addressed

*“We have heard him speak blasphemous words…*

*"For we have heard him say that this Jesus of Nazareth will destroy this place and will change the customs that Moses delivered to us.”* Acts 6:14

*“This man said, ‘I am able to destroy the temple of God, and to rebuild it in three days.’”* Matthew 26:61

*And those who passed by derided him, wagging their heads and saying, “Aha! You who would destroy the temple and rebuild it in three days."* Mark 15:29

***19****Jesus answered them, “Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.”****20****The Jews then 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 about the temple of his body.****22****When therefore he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this, and they believed the Scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.* John 2:19-22

**The death of Jesus REPLACES everything that happened in the TEMPLE.**

*And the word of God continued to increase, and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests became obedient to the faith.* Acts 6:7

***22****And I saw no temple in the city, for its temple is the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb.****23****And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and its lamp is the Lamb.* Revelation 21:22-23

III. The COUNTENANCE He Expressed

*And gazing at him, all who sat in the council saw that his face was like the face of an angel.*

**Last Thought:** CONFIDENT trust in Christ produces COURAGEOUS living through Christ.