

## LEAVING A LEGACY OF INFLUENCE

Acts 6:1 (NIV) *In those days when the number of disciples was increasing, the Hellenistic Jews among them complained against the Hebraic Jews because their widows were being overlooked in the daily distribution of food.* <sup>2</sup> *So the Twelve gathered all the disciples together and said, "It would not be right for us to neglect the ministry of the word of God in order to wait on tables.* <sup>3</sup> *Brothers and sisters, choose seven men from among you who are known to be full of the Spirit and wisdom. We will turn this responsibility over to them* <sup>4</sup> *and will give our attention to prayer and the ministry of the word."* <sup>5</sup> *This proposal pleased the whole group. They chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit...* <sup>7</sup> *So the word of God spread. The number of disciples in Jerusalem increased rapidly, and a large number of priests became obedient to the faith.* <sup>8</sup> *Now Stephen, a man full of God's grace and power, performed great wonders and signs among the people.*

<sup>15</sup> *All who were sitting in the Sanhedrin looked intently at Stephen, and they saw that his face was like the face of an angel.*

### **What do you do to adjust your vision to be in alignment with God's vision?**

3 adjustments we can make as we learn about Stephen.

#### **Adjustment #1: What am I filling up with?**

How do we fill up with God?

- Dial down
  
- Dial up

#### **Adjustment #2: What control can I release?**

Centralized:

De-centralized:

Acts 1:6 (NIV) *Then they gathered around him and asked him, "Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?"*

Acts 1:8 (NIV) *But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."*

**The 3 Pillars of Judaism:**

1. Territory (vs. 1-36)
  
2. Torah (vs. 37-43, 51-53)
  
3. Temple (vs. 44-50)

**Adjustment #3: What sacrifice do I need to make?**

Acts 7:54 (NIV) *When the members of the Sanhedrin heard this, they were furious and gnashed their teeth at him. <sup>55</sup> But Stephen, full of the Holy Spirit, looked up to heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. <sup>56</sup> "Look," he said, "I see heaven open and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God." <sup>57</sup> At this they covered their ears and, yelling at the top of their voices, they all rushed at him, <sup>58</sup> dragged him out of the city and began to stone him. Meanwhile, the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul. <sup>59</sup> While they were stoning him, Stephen prayed, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." <sup>60</sup> Then he fell on his knees and cried out, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." When he had said this, he fell asleep.*

Notice 3 important things:

- 1). The heavens opened for him
  
- 2). Watching it all happen was a young man named Saul.
  
- 3). Stephen cries out, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit...do not hold this sin against them."