



Saints Alive!  
The Book of Acts



***Power To Face Opposition***

***Acts 6:8-15***

# Requires A Life Full of Faith v8-10

✿ “And Stephen, full of faith and power, did great wonders and signs among the people. 9 Then there arose some from what is called the Synagogue of the Freedmen (Cyrenians, Alexandrians, and those from Cilicia and Asia), **disputing** with Stephen. 10 And they were not able to **resist** the wisdom and the Spirit by which he spoke.”

# Requires A Life Full of Faith. v8-10

- ✿ **Dispute:** συζητέω — dispute, debate, argue. They continued unable (without strength enough) to take a stand. Stephen knocked them down, Saul included, as fast as they got up. Stephen was like a battery charged and in action. A.T. Roberson
- ✿ **Resist:** ἀνθίστημι — In a number of languages one may appropriately translate ‘to resist’ in a number of contexts as ‘to fight back against’ or ‘to oppose in return.’ In some contexts, however, such as Ac 7:51, the meaning may perhaps be best expressed by a negation, for example, ‘you have never been willing to yield to the Holy Spirit.’ Johannes P. Louw and Eugene Albert Nida, Greek-English Lexicon of the New

# **Requires A Heart of Integrity. VII-15**

◆ **Demonic opposition has these characteristics:**

- 1. It deals in secrecy with the intent to construct lies and deception. VII**
- 2. It uses unbridled emotional responses to justify violence. VI2**
- 3. It seeks to control the narrative by attacking the person. VI3-14**

# The Distraction Fallacies

- One way of winning an argument is to distract the person from the real point, leading them up the garden path of a side issue or something completely irrelevant to the real subject. The main argument may thus never be completed to a logical conclusion, especially if agreeing with the side issue can be substituted for the real agreement.
- Attacking the Person is a form of distraction, forcing them into defending themselves and away from their argument. Most people, when personally attacked, respond with a fight-or-flight reaction and so either jump to their own defense or cognitively flee (and in doing so, drop any argument they are making).

# Trusts God For His Presence. v15

- ✦ v15 “And all who sat in the council, looking steadfastly at him, saw his face as the face of an angel.”
- ✦ “All attention then turned to Stephen to see how he would respond to the charges. What they saw was a visage transfigured, a face like that of an angel. It is the picture of the martyr inspired by the heavenly vision, filled with the Spirit and empowered for fearless testimony before his accusers.” John B. Polhill

# Trusts God For His Presence. v15

- ✿ (Moses) Consider Exodus 34:29-35 and 2 Cor. 3:7
- ✿ (Jesus) Luke 9:29 “As He prayed, the appearance of His face was altered, and His robe became white and glistening.”
- ✿ And now Stephen:
  - ▶ Matthew 10:19-20 “But when they deliver you up, do not worry about how or what you should speak. For it will be given to you in that hour what you should speak; 20 for it is not you who speak, but the Spirit of your Father who speaks in you.”



# Lawrence O. Richards

- ✿ *Moses' radiant face (34:29–35). The key to this passage is the fact that Moses' face shone only after meeting with God, and that the glow faded when Moses was out of His presence. Paul applies the story to Christian experience in 2 Cor. 3:12–18. The radiance represents the transforming power of God's presence in the believer's life. The fading glory shows that without His presence, no transformation can take place. How we need to stay close to the Lord today!*
- ✿ *Lawrence O. Richards, The Bible Reader's Companion, electronic ed. (Wheaton: Victor Books, 1991), 72.*