

Acts 6:8-15 (New English Translation—NET)

⁸ Now Stephen, a man full of God's grace and power, did great wonders and miraculous signs among the people.

⁹ Opposition arose, however, from members of the Synagogue of the Freedmen (as it was called)—Jews of Cyrene and Alexandria as well as the provinces of Cilicia and Asia. These men began to argue with Stephen, ¹⁰ but they could not stand up against his wisdom or the Spirit by whom he spoke.

¹¹ Then they secretly persuaded some men to say, "We have heard Stephen speak words of blasphemy against Moses and against God." ¹² So they stirred up the people and the elders and the teachers of the law. They seized Stephen and brought him before the Sanhedrin. ¹³ They produced false witnesses, who testified, "This fellow never stops speaking against this holy place and against the law. ¹⁴ For we have heard him say that this Jesus of Nazareth will destroy this place and change the customs Moses handed down to us." ¹⁵ All who were sitting in the Sanhedrin looked intently at Stephen, and they saw that his face was like the face of an angel.

Sermon Notes:**Discovery Bible Study Questions**

1. How can you tell when God is really moving in someone's life and ministry?
2. What four factors characterized Stephen's ministry (v8-10)? Describe each one.
3. Is it surprising that Stephen met opposition from the Synagogue leaders (v9)? Why or why not?
4. How was Stephen able to counter their opposition (v10)?
5. What was the nature of the false testimony directed against Stephen? Was it a complete lie?
6. Does this scene sound similar to any other scene in Scripture?
7. What are possible explanations for the description of Stephen's face in v15?

