

**duplicating  
discipleship**

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● **lesson one**

the passion of stephen

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## Lesson 1: The Passion of Stephen

*"Passion is a red hot flame that can light a dark room. It's not just a feeling of optimism, it's a burning sensation deep within your soul that fuels your body and mind. Authentic passion cannot be ignored or hidden; it must be acted on. Passion drives us forward through hardship and pain, stimulates our thinking, and brings out the best in who we are."*

*Steven J Adams*

- Define Passion.

### **Background –**

- Read these verses related to Stephen and answer the questions below:

Acts 6:5, 8

- Who was Stephen?
- What qualifications did Stephen possess that qualified him for his new role as a "Deacon"?
- What set him apart from the other disciples?
- What was Stephen passionate about in his life?
- The few verses we have that describe Stephen use the word "Full of" as a particular trait or characteristic:
  - What is the significance of (Luke) or other disciples using this term to describe him?

- What other good things can people be “filled” up with?
  
- What are some negative things that can fill a person’s heart?

Cf. Acts 5:3

Luke 4:28

Luke 5:26

Luke 6:11

Acts 5:17

Acts 19:29

Romans 1:29

Ephesians 5:18

- **Actions** – Stephen and the crowd
- Read Acts 6:9-15; Acts 7:1, 54, 59 and answer the questions below:
  - What made Stephen the “spokesman” in this setting?
  
  - How did this quarrel start?
  
  - How did Stephen handle it?
  
  - Should Christians just seclude themselves from societal controversy or insert themselves into it?

- What does his sermon say about his earlier life?
  
- Why did Stephen's message result in such a violent response?

**Outcome** – Impacts on others years later

- Read Acts 8:2; 11:19; 22:20 and answer the below questions:
  - What is Stephen noted for today?
  
  - What is the heritage we will leave behind?
  
  - What impact did his death/fate have on others?
  
  - What impact can our "life" have on others?

**Application** - Discipleship Time

- This text could lead to dozens of theological discussions, but our intent is to focus on the trait, or characteristics of Stephen that we need to model in our lives to be effective Disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ.
  - Is passionate discipleship a necessity? If so, why?
  
  - How many things can a person be passionate about?
  
  - Where does my life reflect being a "passionate follower of Jesus"?

- How can we nourish this trait?

## **ONE PURE AND HOLY PASSION**

*by William Murphy*

*Give me one pure and holy passion  
Give me one magnificent obsession  
Give me one glorious ambition for my life  
To know and follow hard after You*

*To know and follow hard after you  
To grow as your disciple in your truth  
This world is empty, pale, and poor  
Compared to knowing you, my Lord  
Lead me on and I will run after you  
Lead me on and I will run after you*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LArCu3OxdEI>

## **The Fellowship of the Unashamed**

**I am part of the "Fellowship of the Unashamed."  
The die has been cast. I have stepped over the line.  
The decision has been made. I am a disciple of  
Jesus Christ. I won't look back, let up, slow down,  
back away, or be still. My past is redeemed, my present  
makes sense, and my future is secure.**

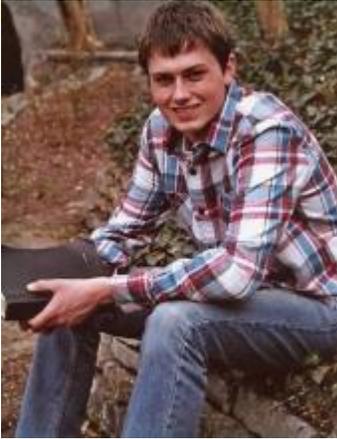
**I am finished and done with low living, sight walking,  
small planning, smooth knees, colorless dreams,  
chintzy giving, and dwarfed goals.**

**I no longer need pre-eminence, prosperity, position,  
promotions, plaudits, or popularity. I now live by  
presence, lean by faith, love by patience,  
lift by prayer, and labor by power. My pace  
is set, my gait is fast, my goal is Heaven, my  
road is narrow, my way is rough, my companions few,  
my Guide reliable, my mission clear. I cannot be bought,  
compromised, deterred, lured away, turned back,  
diluted, or delayed.**

**I will not flinch in the face of sacrifice, hesitate in the  
presence of adversity, negotiate at the table of the enemy,  
ponder at the pool of popularity, or meander  
in the maze of mediocrity.**

**I am a disciple of Jesus Christ. I must go until  
Heaven returns, give until I drop, preach until all know,  
and work until He comes. And when He comes to get  
His own, He will have no problem recognizing me.**

**My colors will be clear**



**Modern-day example of a committed passionate follower of Jesus:**

**Caleb Neal**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N-w4Lbw0CQ&t=333s>