

Devotion Info
Grace and Power

DAY 1 Read Acts 6:8, 2 Corinthians 12:9

[8] Stephen, a man full of God's grace and power, performed amazing miracles and signs among the people.
Acts 6:8 NLT

[9] Each time he said, "My grace is all you need. My power works best in weakness." So now I am glad to boast about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ can work through me.
2 Corinthians 12:9 NLT

- Why is it significant that Stephen was full of grace and power?
- How might those qualities be misunderstood or overlooked in the church today?

Application: In what areas of your life are you tempted to shrink back instead of standing up for the truth?

DAY 2 Read Acts 6:9-10, Matthew 10:19-20

[9] But one day some men from the Synagogue of Freed Slaves, as it was called, started to debate with him. They were Jews from Cyrene, Alexandria, Cilicia, and the province of Asia. [10] None of them could stand against the wisdom and the Spirit with which Stephen spoke.
Acts 6:9-10 NLT

[19] When you are arrested, don't worry about how to respond or what to say. God will give you the right words at the right time. [20] For it is not you who will be speaking—it will be the Spirit of your Father speaking through you.
Matthew 10:19-20 NLT

- What does it mean that Stephen's wisdom could not be refuted?
- Have you ever seen truth resisted even when it's clearly spoken?

Application: In what areas of your life are you tempted to shrink back instead of standing up for the truth?

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DAY 3 Read Acts 6:11-14, Matthew 5:11-12

[11] So they persuaded some men to lie about Stephen, saying, "We heard him blaspheme Moses, and even God." [12] This roused the people, the elders, and the teachers of religious law. So they arrested Stephen and brought him before the high council. [13] The lying witnesses said, "This man is always speaking against the holy Temple and against the law of Moses. [14] We have heard him say that this Jesus of Nazareth will destroy the Temple and change the customs Moses handed down to us."
Acts 6:11-14 NLT

[11] "God blesses you when people mock you and persecute you and lie about you and say all sorts of evil things against you because you are my followers. [12] Be happy about it! Be very glad! For a great reward awaits you in heaven. And remember, the ancient prophets were persecuted in the same way.
Matthew 5:11-12 NLT

- Why do you think the religious leaders felt threatened by Stephen?
- What are some modern day equivalents for being falsely accused for your faith?

Application: In what areas of your life are you tempted to shrink back instead of standing up for the truth?

DAY 4 Read Acts 6:15

[15] At this point everyone in the high council stared at Stephen, because his face became as bright as an angel's.
Acts 6:15 NLT

- Stephen's face was "like the face of an angel." What do you think that means?

Application: In what areas of your life are you tempted to shrink back instead of standing up for the truth?

DAY 5 Read Exodus 34:29

[29] When Moses came down Mount Sinai carrying the two stone tablets inscribed with the terms of the covenant, he wasn't aware that his face had become radiant because he had spoken to the Lord.
Exodus 34:29 NLT

- How can the presence of God give us peace, even in hostile situations?

Application: In what areas of your life are you tempted to shrink back instead of standing up for the truth?

If you would like a daily reminder of these devotionals for each week's sermon, text "DEVO" to 512-877-5131 and you'll receive a text message after 8am Monday-Friday with a link to that day's devotional.