Acts 6:8-15 10/22/23

## "Stephen Full of Grace & Power":

Part 1: Stephen - The Man Sermon Notes

➤ In this life there will always be gospel opposition, but he who is in you is greater than he who is in the world

\*Brothers & Sisters of Mound Free Church...

1. Be wise to the wiles of the enemy (vv. 9, 11-14)

2. Be <u>filled</u> with the <u>fruit</u> of the <u>Spirit</u> (vv. 3, 5, 8, 10, 15)

Next Week: Acts 7:1-53 - "And Stephen Said...":

# **MEFC Community Group Study Guide**

For the Week of October 22nd - 28th

#### **Getting Started**

1. Do you ever experience opposition for your faith in Christ? If so, share with the group a bit about what that looks like for you. If you can't think of any examples, why do you suppose that's the case?

## **Digging Deeper**

2. 1 Peter 4:12-19 and 2 Timothy 3:12 describe some measure of persecution and suffering for righteousness' sake as *normal* and *universal* for Christians in every age. Walk carefully through each passage. How ought we to seek to apply them in our 21st century American context?

### Open Your Bible to Acts 6:8...

3. Consider Luke's descriptions of Stephen in Acts 6:3, 5, and 8. How many features of this man does he describe in these verses? Which ones are particularly striking to you? Why?

4. Acts 6:9 and 11-14 depict the origins and nature of the opposition with which Stephen found himself contending. Using Luke's words, paint a portrait of this emerging persecution. What are Stephen's temptations in a situation like this one?

5. Have you ever encountered adversity along the lines of what Luke describes in vv. 9, 11-14? In your family? At work? At school? In your neighborhood or broader community? How about online? What was it like? Reflecting back on Acts 6:3, 5, and 8, what sorts of character qualities (exhibited by Stephen) serve us uniquely well in such situations?

6. The Apostle John assures us in 1 John 4:4 that: "...he who is in you is greater than he who is in the world." How is Acts 6:10 a reflection of this truth? In what ways does the truth of 1 John 4:4 encourage you as you consider what it means to endure opposition for the sake of Christ?

7. Paul reminds us in Ephesians 6:10-20 of the true nature of our enemy. Why is it so critical that we not lose sight of the truth that other people are not ultimately our enemy but rather the unseen principalities and powers (Ephesians 6:12)? How do verses 10-20 furnish us with resources for this battle?

8. Close your time together by praying for one another as a group. Be sure to intercede for each other especially as it relates to becoming wise to the wiles of the enemy (Acts 6:9, 11-14) and being filled with the fruit of the Spirit (Acts 6:3, 5, 8, 10, 15).