



BELLVIEW

Baptist Church

Week of July 6, 2025



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Pastor Bob's Message...

Stephen: A Faith That Advances God's Kingdom

Scripture: Acts 6:3–15 (KJV)

The early church was growing rapidly, and with that growth came practical challenges that required faithful, Spirit-filled leaders. One such leader was **Stephen**, a man whose faith not only advanced the kingdom of God but also cost him his life. Yet, his legacy continues to inspire risk-taking faith. In this lesson, we'll examine Stephen's selection, his spiritual authority, and the fierce opposition he faced.



I. Chosen to Serve – Acts 6:3–7

"Wherefore, brethren, look ye out among you seven men of honest report, full of the Holy Ghost and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business." (Acts 6:3)

As the number of disciples increased, a dispute arose concerning the daily distribution to the widows. The apostles, needing to maintain focus on the ministry of the Word, directed the congregation to select seven men to oversee this practical need. Among them was **Stephen**.

Word Study:

- **"Honest report" (v.3)** – Greek: *martureō*, meaning "to bear witness" or "to testify." Stephen had a reputation backed by consistent testimony. His life bore evidence of integrity and spiritual maturity.

"Full of the Holy Ghost and wisdom" – These were not merely administrative qualifications but spiritual necessities. *"Wisdom"* (Greek: *sophia*) implies practical skill guided by divine insight.

Verse 7 concludes this section with a summary: *"And the word of God increased; and the number of the disciples multiplied in Jerusalem greatly..."* (v.7). The church's growth was directly connected to Spirit-led leadership like Stephen's. God advances His kingdom through humble servants faithful in both word and deed.

II. Endued with Power – Acts 6:8–10

"And Stephen, full of faith and power, did great wonders and miracles among the people." (Acts 6:8)

Stephen's ministry extended beyond administration. He was full of *"faith"* (Greek: *pistis*)—a trust and confidence in God that enabled him to perform *"miracles"* (Greek: *dynamis*, meaning powerful acts). He moved boldly in the Spirit, defending the gospel with wisdom and spiritual authority.

Word Study:

- **"Disputing" (v.9)** – Greek: *suzētēsis*, meaning a debate or argument. Stephen entered theological confrontations not with arrogance, but with truth and clarity.

"They were not able to resist the wisdom and the spirit by which he spake." (v.10) – *"Resist"* (Greek: *anthistēmi*) means to stand against. Stephen's speech was irrefutable because it was rooted in the Holy Spirit.

The lesson here is clear: true kingdom advancement doesn't rely on intellect alone but on Spirit-empowered wisdom. Stephen's faith, grounded in Scripture and filled with power, could not be

Pastor Bob's Message Continues...

silenced by opposition.

III. Faith in the Fire – Acts 6:11–15

"Then they suborned men, which said, We have heard him speak blasphemous words..." (Acts 6:11)

Unable to defeat Stephen in honest debate, the opposition resorted to deception. They *"suborned"* (Greek: *hupoballō*), meaning to instigate secretly, false witnesses to accuse Stephen of blasphemy. This echoes the same tactics used against Jesus.

Word Study:

- **"Blasphemous words" (v.11)** – Greek: *blasphēmia*, meaning slander or speech injurious to divine majesty. Stephen was falsely accused of insulting Moses and God.

"All that sat in the council... saw his face as it had been the face of an angel." (v.15) – Despite standing before a hostile Sanhedrin, Stephen's countenance reflected peace and holiness. The phrase implies divine approval and presence.

Stephen stood in boldness, unshaken by lies or threats. His angelic appearance symbolized not just calm under pressure but God's approval. This is the essence of risk-taking faith—it stands firm even in the face of persecution.

Conclusion:

Stephen's life reminds us that advancing God's kingdom often comes with great risk. Yet, his faith, filled with the Holy Ghost, wisdom, and power, transformed ordinary service into extraordinary ministry. He was not only a deacon but a witness—a *martyr*—whose faith lit a fire that spread far beyond his death.

May we, like Stephen, be "full of faith and power" (Acts 6:8), unafraid to speak truth, serve others, and shine with the glory of God even when opposition rises. Faith that advances God's Kingdom is not safe—but it is always worth it.

JOIN US **LIVE**

EVERY SUNDAY
10 AM

ONLINE SERVICES



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Projected Date for the Mission Trip

July 13 – July 19

Cost is \$125 per family
\$75 per person


Answers
IN GENESIS®

Saturday, June 21 @ 9 AM

ARK
ENCOUNTER®

Deadline for the money for the Mission Trip is Sunday, July 6.

July 24 – 5 PM



Door Openers Trip

Bring
Your 3

Join Us at the Altar



Bro. Travis' Message

Everywhere we look, we are told the importance of finding and expressing our true selves. In this lesson, students were told the countercultural truth that we can't find our true selves by looking inward; we need to look to who God says we are: his children. Students will look at Paul's reminder of our status as children of God and explore what this means for how we see ourselves. They will explore why it can be difficult to accept this kind of love and consider what it looks like to abide in Christ and become more like him.

1 John 2:28-3:3

- How does God show us his love? What does it look like in your life?
- After reading John's words and the description of "abiding" above, does abiding in God sound difficult to you? Why or why not?
- How does abiding in Christ affect our understanding of who we are?
- In what area of your life do you need to trust and obey God more than you currently do?

Bro Travis



PATRIOTIC PICNIC

***JULY 6TH
5:00 PM***



BACK TO SCHOOL

SUPPLIES & HAIRCUTS
JULY 28TH
6PM-7:30PM



**BELLVIEW
Baptist Church**
WHERE IT'S ALL ABOUT JESUS!

WEEKLY SCHEDULE/GIVING

LIVE STREAMING SCHEDULE

Sunday, July 6—10 AM

Sunday, July 13—10 AM

**Sunday Bulletin and the
monthly newsletter are online!**

Go to
www.bellviewbaptistpaducah.com

Only newsletters that will be sent out are
the members with no email addresses.

Last Sunday's Report for June 29, 2025

Required Weekly.....\$10,107.91

Offering Received.....\$5,821.00

Designated Received.....\$178.00

VOLUNTEERS FOR THE WEEK

Deacon of the Week

Ronnie Adams — 270-556-5387

Greeters/Welcome Center

Randall & Linda Boggess | Nancy Edwards

July Ushers

Jason Bogard — Chris Brandstetter — Mark Jackson-

Barry Leidecker — Jason Olroyd — Andy Pegram

Safety Team for Sunday, July 6 — #2

Card Ministry for July—Linda Massey

Please NO food or drinks in the Worship Center.

**July 6, THERE WILL BE PRESCHOOL
AVAILABLE DURING THE
10 AM WORSHIP HOUR**