

I. How a Spirit led church handles problems (v. 1-7)

- A. They used Spirit led discernment
- B. They established Spirit led priorities

“But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.” (Matthew 6:33)

- C. They made a Spirit led decision
- D. They exercised delegation
  - 1. They chose people who were filled with the Holy Spirit
  - 2. They chose people who were filled with wisdom
- E. The leaders focused on the ministry of prayer & the word

“Preach the Word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage – great patience and careful instruction.” (2 Timothy 4:2)

- F. They set apart others to serve

“It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, to prepare God’s people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up. “ (Ephesians 4:11-12)

- G. They enjoyed continued success

II. How a Spirit led church handles opposition (v. 8-15)

- A. Stephen was used by God
  - 1. He was full of faith
  - 2. He was full of the Holy Spirit
  - 3. He was full of God’s grace
  - 4. He was full of God’s power

“With great power the apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and much grace was upon them all.” (Acts 4:33)

- 5. He was used by God to do great miracles
- B. Stephen stood his ground against opposition

“I will know that you stand firm in one spirit, contending as one man for the faith of the gospel without being frightened in any way by those who oppose you.” (Philippians 1:27-28)

C. Stephen’s Spirit led wisdom prevailed

D. Stephen was faced with false accusations

“Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kind of evil against you because of me.” (Mathew 5:11)

E. Stephen was arrested for his faith

“If they persecuted me, they will persecute you also.” (John 15:20)

F. Stephen exhibited a Spirit led composure

“When Moses came down from Mount Sinai with the two tablets of the Testimony in his hands, he was not aware that his face was radiant because he had spoken with the Lord.” (Exodus 34:29)