



THE HEIGHTS FELLOWSHIP

THIS WEEK AT THF

- ▶ **TUESDAY**
THF College - Bible Study/Games/Food
7:00pm-9:00pm - Meet @ Doug's House (4913 92nd St.)
- ▶ **WEDNESDAY**
THF Students - Worship & Hangouts
6:30pm-8:30pm
- ▶ **THURSDAY**
THF Men's Ministry - Bible Study & Fellowship
6:30am-7:30am

UPCOMING AT THF

- ▶ **JULY 12** - THF Women's Fellowship Event
9:00am - Coffee, Breakfast & Coloring
- ▶ **AUGUST 10** - Family Swim Night
7:30-9:30pm

July 6, 2025

Please continue to check all
of our social media outlets
and our website for updates to
weekly activities and Sunday Services.
www.theheightsfellowship.org

FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP

June 29, 2025

BUDGET GIVING:	\$10,893.00
BUDGET NEEDS:	\$19,346.00

YEAR TO DATE

BUDGET GIVING:	\$458,782.59
BUDGET NEEDS:	\$494,706.00

THE MARTYR

Stephen was the 'hinge' on which the future of the church turned!



⁸ And Stephen, full of grace and power, was performing great wonders and signs among the people. ⁹ But some men from what was called the Synagogue of the Freedmen, including both Cyrenians and Alexandrians, and some from Cilicia and dAsia, rose up and argued with Stephen. ¹⁰ But they were unable to cope with the wisdom and the Spirit with which he was speaking. Acts 6:8-10

The very first person documented as KIA (killed in action) for faith in Jesus was not an APOSTLE, but rather a WORKER

We have a term: **MARTYR** to describe this

English definition - "a person who is put to death or endures great suffering on behalf of any belief, principle, or cause.."

The word comes from the Greek: **martys**
"one who bears **WITNESS** to what he has seen..."

Stephen fits EITHER DEFINITION

...but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth. - Jesus (Acts 1:8)

WHO WAS STEPHEN?

- Stephen = *stephanos* - VICTORS crown
- He was one of the HELLENISTIC Jews
- He was one of the **SEVEN** chosen by the Church to serve
- His is the **FIRST NAME** listed - which usually indicates that he was a LEADER among the leaders

THE PATH OF THE MARTYR

THE TESTIMONY 6:8

Stephen was FULLY LOADED with a LOT of things

- *full of the Spirit and wisdom...* Acts 6:3
- *a man full of faith and the Holy Spirit...* Acts 6:5
- *a man full of God's grace and power...* Acts 6:8

'full of' or 'filled' = *pleres*
complete, covered over, replete, filled up

The idea is that which **fills** also CONTROLS

*That church was not committed to its visions and sold out to its goals...
The early church was filled with people who were sold out to God's goals and purposes – to the exclusion of EVERYTHING else!*

- FAITH was his rule v5
- the HOLY SPIRIT was his Guide v5
- walked in GRACE v8
- lived with great POWER v8
- steered with WISDOM v3

THE PERSECUTION 6:9-15

The **FREEDMAN's SYNAGOGUE** - a gathering of former Jewish slaves who spoke GREEK as their native tongue.

They could not thwart Stephen's testimony, so they **MADE UP STUFF**
Their attack focused on **Moses** (the LAW) and the **Temple** (God's PRESENCE !)

THE DEFENSE 7:1-53

The gist of Stephen's defense is that God has historically been a PRESENCE, not a PLACE - and that Jesus (God with us) was the fulfillment of the Law and the Temple!

THE MARTYRDOM 7:54-8:1

- Stephen's defense turned politicians into a **MOB**
- They saw blood, Stephen saw JESUS
- Stephen's prayer would soon be answered in the person of PAUL

The church owes Paul to the prayer of Stephen!
- Augustine

INSIGHTS AND APPLICATIONS

You never know who you influence in **LIVING** or **DYING**

R EALITY R EPLACES R ITUAL

Death has NO POWER to the one who has already 'died to Jesus!'

You have **NO GREATER POWER** than when you have DIED to yourself