

"Face of an Angel"

11-23-94 Wed.

Text: Acts 6

INTRO Acts, Chapter 6, traditionally is seen as when the early church first chose deacons.

-We see the reason for this was that a temporal need arose within the church - See 6:2.

-The apostles made it clear that their main function was not to meet the physical needs but the spiritual needs of the church.

-See V2 - "It is not reason that we should leave the word of God, and serve tables."

-See V4 - "**But we will give ourselves continually to prayer, and to the ministry of the word.**"

-The Pastor's main function is to pray for the flock and feed the flock the word of God.

-Now, one of the men that was chosen was Stephen.

-Let us notice the information given on Stephen.

-V5 - notice he was mentioned first on the list of men chosen. (Notice men were chosen to be deacons and not women.)

-Stephen was a man full of faith.

-He was a man full of the Holy Ghost.

-V8 - again we are told Stephen was full of faith , also he was full of power -

"did great wonders and miracles among the people."

-Stephen was full of Holy Ghost power.

-If you are a person full of faith, then you will be filled by the Holy Spirit and have Holy Spirit power to do great things for the Lord.

-This doesn't include the sign gifts. What it mean for a Christian in our current church age/age of grace to do great things for the Lord means power in witnessing, *serving the Lord, spiritual discernment*

-If you think about a person getting save through the witness of a Christian is a great wonder and a miracle only wrought through the power of God, ~~the~~ Holy Spirit power.

-Remember, this power we are talking about is the same power that brought Jesus up ^{from} ~~from~~ the grave.

-But a prerequisite to be filled with the Holy Spirit is to be full of faith.

-The Bible says whatever is without faith is sin.

-So, if your life is full of sin, it is because you are without faith.

-Full of faith - you first need to be full of faith before the Holy Ghost can fill you.

-V5 shows faith comes first, a ^{of} walk pure faith.

-All through the scriptures, men full of faith, God used mightly.

-e.g. Noah, Abraham, Paul the Apostle.

-Then we ^{see} the religious crowd disputing with Stephen. v9 -

-Notice what v10 says:

"not able to resist the wisdom and the spirit by which he spake."

The wisdom of this world which is what the unsaved possess is no match for God given wisdom, as James tells us "is from above".

-See I Cor 1:20-21 ^{which}

-V20 - **"God made foolish the wisdom of the world."**

-V21 - **"wisdom of this world cannot know God."**

-V25 - the foolishness of God is wiser than men.

-V27 - You see the religious crowd was ^{confounded} ~~conformed~~ by the preaching of the cross, which is foolishness to them that perish.

-They also could not resist the spirit by which Stephen spake.

-Paul said - I Cor. 2:4 - **"And my speech and my preaching was not with enticing words of man's wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and power;"**

-Stephen spoke with words that had the power and strength of the Holy Spirit of God behind them.

-He spoke with words that nothing could stop.

Hebrews 4:12 - "**Words that are quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discernor of the thoughts and intents of the heart.**"

-That is why the religious crowd got upset with Stephen because of the spirit filled words which cut quick to their hearts and exposed them for who they really are.

-Stephen wasn't quoting some poet or philosopher of the day.

-Stephen was expounding from the living Word of God.

-In fact, the Word of God exposed the religious leaders so much that in Chapter 7, they stoned Stephen to death.

-Christian, people will get upset with you when you present the gospel in the wisdom and Spirit of God.

-If you were quote from any other source poet, philosophy or so-called religious writing, people would not be offended, they would think that you were well read.

-The reason is the Bible is the only source that will expose and shed light on who a person really is, because they are the words of the living God. - Amen.

-The only way the religious crowd could bring Stephen before their council was to trump up charges, against him. - See vs 11-14.

-Despite all their false charges and false witnesses brought against Stephen, notice what it says in v15 - Read.

-**"saw his face as it had been the face of an angel"**

-This same crowd who rebuked what Stephen preached - his spirit filled preaching.

-Therefore, by doing this denied the source of his power, the Lord, denied the Word of God.

-Still when they looked upon Stephen, look upon his face,

-They saw his face as it had been **the face of an angel**.

-What we want to see if you are full of faith, which means you will be full of the Holy Ghost.

-Therefore, you will be able to witness, to preach in the wisdom and the spirit that men will not be able to resist.

-But also your outward appearance, your countenance will also reflect that we are full of faith and full of the Holy Ghost.

-Christian if you are full of faith, therefore full of the Holy Ghost, then as a result you will be full of godly wisdom. - Our face will show it - SEE ECCLESIASTES 8:1.

-Jesus in describing John the Baptist who was filled with the Holy Ghost even from his mother's womb (Luke 1:15).

-Jesus said in John 5:35 - "He was a burning and a shining light." and because John the Baptist was full of the Holy Ghost, it was revealed to Him ^{who Jesus was} and so he could proclaim upon seeing Jesus coming - "Behold, the Lamb of God who taketh away the sin of the world".

-Christian are you are burning and shining light to a dark and cold world?

-A person full of the Holy Ghost, his face will shine.

-A person full of the Holy Ghost is a person who is ^{with} God on a regular basis, not just when the storm hits. - Amen!

-We are told after Moses had been forty days and forty nights on Mt. Sinai, that the skin of face shone.

-In fact, it shone so brightly they had to put a veil over his face, so others could speak to him. (EXODUS 34:28-35)

-You see Moses had been with God.

-However, the scriptures tells us in 2 Cor. 3:7-11, the ministry of spirit that we have under grace is far more glorious than the glory the children of Israel had under the law as shown by Moses's countenance.

-Let me ask you, when the unsaved crowd looks upon your face, do they see your face as it had been the face of an angel? - a radiant face.

-Or do they look upon a sad countenance, a dark face, a joyless face, one that shows every care of the world.

-A face that is constantly affected by your circumstances.

-You see if you are full of faith, therefore full of the Holy Ghost, then you should be joyful, have a merry heart.

-See Proverbs 15:13 - "Cheerful countenance"

-See Proverbs 15:15 - "merry heart continual feast"

-See Proverbs 17:22 - "merry heart - medicine"

*• Documented that frowns put
wrinkles on ones face. smiles don't*

-Christian if you want the unsaved crowd to look upon your face and behold a face as it had been a face of an angel, then we must be a people full of faith.

-We must be a people walking by faith and not sight, then we will be filled with the Holy Ghost and no one will be able to resist the wisdom and spirit by which we speak, and our countenance will shine!!!