

Find a Good Man to Mirror

What Do I Do Now? (part 9)

The Son perfectly mirrors God

Hebrews 1:1 Msg



8Now Stephen, a man full of God's grace and power, did great wonders and miraculous signs among the people. 9**Opposition arose**, ... but they could not stand up against his wisdom or the Spirit by whom he spoke. ...

13They produced false witnesses, who testified, "...we have heard him say that this Jesus of Nazareth will destroy this place and change the customs Moses handed down to us." ...

15All who were sitting in the Sanhedrin looked intently at Stephen, and they saw that **his face was like the face of an angel**. ...

"Abraham ... Isaac ... Jacob ... Joseph ... Moses who told the Israelites, 'God will send you a prophet like me from your own people.' ... **he received living words to pass on to us**. 39But our fathers refused to obey him. Instead, **they rejected him and in their hearts turned back** to Egypt. ...

"You stiff-necked people ... You are just like your fathers: **You always resist the Holy Spirit!** 52Was there ever a prophet your fathers did not persecute? They even killed those who predicted the coming of the Righteous One. And now you have betrayed and murdered him..."

54When they heard this, they were furious and gnashed their teeth at him. 55But Stephen, **full of the Holy Spirit, looked up to heaven and saw the glory of God**, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. 56 "Look," he said, "I see heaven open and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God."

57At this they covered their ears and, yelling at the top of their voices, they all rushed at him, 58dragged him out of the city and began to stone him. Meanwhile, the witnesses **laid their clothes at the feet of a young man named Saul**.

59While they were stoning him, Stephen prayed, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." 60Then he fell on his knees and cried out, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." When he had said this, he fell asleep. Acts 6:8-15 and 7:37-39, 51-60 NIV

An Example I Can Follow

❖ Love People Who Make Life Tough for Me

Avoid Bitterness — Pursue Forgiveness

Lord, do not hold this sin against them.

Acts 7:60 NIV

Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you ... Let them bring out the best in you, not the worst.

Matthew 5:44 NIV, Msg

❖ Hang on to God's Living Words

Moses ... received **living words** to pass on to us.

Acts 7:38 NIV

The word of God is **alive and powerful**. It is sharper than the sharpest two-edged sword ... It exposes our innermost thoughts and desires.

Hebrews 4:12 NLT

The very words I have spoken to you **are spirit and life**.

John 6:63 NLT

Many of his disciples said, "This is a **hard teaching. Who can accept it?**"

John 6:60 NIV

❖ Respond to the Holy Spirit

You always **resist** the Holy Spirit!

Acts 7:51 NIV

I promise you that you cannot get into God's kingdom, unless you **accept it the way a child does**.

Mark 10:15 CEV

Humbly accept
the word God has planted in your hearts

James 1:21 NLT

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NIV - New International Version

NIRV - New International Readers' Version

CEV - Contemporary English Version

CPV - Cotton Patch Version

G W V - God's Word Version

NLT - New Living Translation

MSG - The Message

NCV - New Century Version

Amp - Amplified Bible

WSV - Word on the Street Version