



# Making A Difference For God

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

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“And Stephen, full of faith and power, did great wonders and miracles among the people. 9 Then there arose certain of the synagogue, which is called the synagogue of the Libertines, and Cyrenians, and Alexandrians, and of them of Cilicia and of Asia, disputing with Stephen. 10 And they were not able to resist the wisdom and the spirit by which he spake. 11 Then they suborned men, which said, We have heard him speak blasphemous words against Moses, and against God. 12 And they stirred up the people, and the elders, and the scribes, and came upon him, and caught him, and brought him to the council, 13 And set up false witnesses, which said, This man ceaseth not to speak blasphemous words against this holy place, and the law: 14 For we have heard him say, that this Jesus of Nazareth shall destroy this place, and shall change the customs which Moses delivered us. 15 And all that sat in the council, looking stedfastly on him, saw his face as it had been the face of an angel (Acts 6:8-15).

Everybody is uniquely different from others, and God meant it so, because He wants us to use our unique differences to enrich the lives of others. While, some like to blend in and lose their distinctness, others want to be different just for the sake of it, and with no clear purpose in mind and without such difference adding any value for good. In fact some differences actually destroy. Note the following salient points in this story:

- 1) Stephen was appointed to distribute food. He faithfully discharged his responsibilities, but he did just stop there nor limit himself to his earthly job description. He recognised that the purpose of the gift of the Holy Spirit was for more than just the distribution. He wanted to live to his fullest potentials and utilise the gift of God for the intended purpose. So, in addition to the distribution of food (which he did not neglect nor despise), he started preaching - making a positive value added difference for God.
- 2) He did not have to preach, if he did not want to. The other 6 appointed with him also had the Holy Spirit, but we do not hear much about their acts other than faithfully distributing food. Stephen must have known that the promise of the Holy Spirit was associated with empowerment to preach the gospel, so he wanted to go the extra mile, to do something by himself, rather than rele-

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gate this as a privilege to the apostles only.

- 3) When your life hits the devil hard, he will not just sit down and roll a red carpet out for you. Opposition arose from the Libertines, Cyrenians and Alexandrians, all of whom teamed up to oppose him, but could not “resist the wisdom and the spirit by which he spake (vs 9,10).
- 4) Satan does not stop nor give up when he fails, neither should you. Next they recruited people, stirred up others and set up false witnesses to raise up false accusations against Stephen (vs 11-14)
- 5) Stephen was brought to the council (vs 12), but God honoured His servant by making his face to shine like that of an angel to the council members who steadfastly looked at him. They did not see the face of a criminal, but that of an angel. May your accusers see the face of an angel, while beholding you.

God created human beings to “... have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth” (Genesis 1:28). Jesus empowered believers to overcome “Behold, I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you” (Luke 10:19). Do not just be satisfied to live your entire life only to accomplish your career ambitions. God made you for more. His investment of the Holy Spirit in you is to enable you accomplish more than secular, family or career aspirations, etc. Rise to your call and the challenges of the situation. Let God’s power in you flow to address the issues of the moment. Do not be held back by fear or complacency. It is time to arise and make a positive difference for God wherever you are “... and who knoweth whether thou art come to the kingdom for such a time as this?” (Esther 4:14).