

**Facing Opposition**  
**Church Without Walls – Part 3**  
Life Church St. Louis – May 3, 2020  
Lead Pastor – Dr. Dan Walker  
Message Videos – [www.lcstl.org/messages](http://www.lcstl.org/messages)

*1 Peter 5:8 (ESV) Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.*

*John 10:10 (ESV) The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.*

### 1. Be empowered to serve

*Acts 6:3 (ESV) Therefore, brothers, pick out from among you seven men of good repute, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we will appoint to this duty.*

*Acts 6:5-6 (ESV) And what they said pleased the whole gathering, and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, and Philip, ... These they set before the apostles, and they prayed and laid their hands on them.*

*Acts 6:8 (ESV) And Stephen, full of grace and power, was doing great wonders and signs among the people.*

### 2. Be prepared for opposition

*Acts 6:9-10 (ESV) Then some of those who belonged to the synagogue ... rose up and disputed with Stephen. But they could not withstand the wisdom and the Spirit with which he was speaking.*

*Acts 6:11-12 (ESV) Then they secretly instigated men who said, "We have heard him speak blasphemous words against Moses and God." And they stirred up the people and the elders and the scribes, and they came upon him and seized him and brought him before the council,*

*Acts 6:13, 15 (ESV) and they set up false witnesses who said, "This man never ceases to speak words against this holy place and the law ... And gazing at him, all who sat in the council saw that his face was like the face of an angel.*

### 3. Be faithful until death

*Acts 7:51-52 (ESV) "You stiff-necked people, uncircumcised in heart and ears, you always resist the Holy Spirit. As your fathers did, so do you. Which of the prophets did your fathers not persecute? And they killed those who announced beforehand the coming of the Righteous One, whom you have now betrayed and murdered,*

*Acts 7:54-55 (ESV) Now when they heard these things they were enraged, and they ground their teeth at him. But he, full of the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God.*

*Acts 7:57-58a (ESV) But they cried out with a loud voice and stopped their ears and rushed together at him. Then they cast him out of the city and stoned him.*

*Acts 7:59-60 (ESV) And as they were stoning Stephen, he called out, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." And falling to his knees he cried out with a loud voice, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." And when he had said this, he fell asleep.*

### Action Plan for This Week

Have a daily time of Bible reading & prayer (Read Acts 6-7).  
 Mon  Tue  Wed  Thu  Fri  Sat  Sun

Invite a friend to watch the service online next week.

How will I obey God's Word this week? \_\_\_\_\_

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# Facing Opposition Study Guide

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Intro. In what ways should we be sober-minded and watchful (1 Peter 5:8)?

Intro. How does Satan oppose and attack believers (John 10:10)?

Intro. What are some of the ways that Satan is using the COVID-19 crisis to attack people?

Intro. How do you think God desires to work good from the current crisis?

1A. Why were there such high requirements for the men overseeing the food distribution to the widows (Acts 6:3)?

1B. What does it mean that Stephen was full of faith and the Spirit (Acts 6:5-6)?

1C. What can we learn from Stephen's example of doing great wonders and signs, even though he was not an apostle (Acts 6:8)?

1D. How do you think God is preparing you through this crisis for the future?

2A. What prompted the Jews from the synagogue to dispute with Stephen (Acts 6:9-10)?

2B. In what ways does Satan use lies to attack believers and the church (Acts 5:11-13)?

2C. What does the phrase "his face was like the face of an angel" tell us about Stephen in this crisis (Acts 6:15)?

2D. In what ways recently have you seen increased attacks on Christianity in America? How should we respond to those attacks?

3A. How did Stephen show great courage in calling the people to repent (Acts 7:51-52)?

3B. Describe the different activities of Satan and the Holy Spirit in Acts 7:54-55. What do you think was the significance of Jesus standing at God's right hand?

3C. How does Satan often use mobs to accomplish his purposes (Acts 7:57-58)?

3D. What do Stephen's last words tell us about him (Acts 7:59-60)?

3E. What must we do to be faithful until death?