

WHEN RELIGION COLLIDES WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT

A Movement That Changes the World – Part 8

Acts 6:8 – 8:5

January 25, 2015

1. Stephen was filled with, and led by, the (Holy Spirit).

Now Stephen, a man full of God's grace and power, did great wonders and miraculous signs among the people. Opposition arose...but they could not stand up against his wisdom or the Spirit by whom he spoke. – Acts 6:8-10 NIV

2. Traditional religion honors the (place of worship) as much as it honors God.

They produced false witnesses, who testified, "This fellow never stops speaking against this holy place.... For we have heard him say that this Jesus of Nazareth will destroy this place...." – Acts 6:13-14a NIV

3. Traditional religion clings to the (past) and what is (familiar).

"For we have heard him say that this Jesus of Nazareth will...change the customs Moses handed down to us." – Acts 6:14 NIV

"But our fathers refused to obey him. Instead, they rejected him and in their hearts turned back to Egypt." – Acts 7:39 NIV

"Leave your country and your people," God said, "and go to the country I will show you." – Acts 7:3 NIV

4. The greatest threat to traditional religion is the work of (Holy Spirit).

"How stubborn can you be? How can you be so heartless and disobedient? You're just like our ancestors. They always opposed the Holy Spirit, and so do you!" – Acts 7:51 GW

5. When Stephen (stood) for Jesus, Jesus stood for Stephen.

Then Stephen said, "I see heaven open and the Son of Man standing at the right side of God!" – Acts 7:56 CEV

6. Stephen's murder opened a floodgate of (attacks) and (suffering) for the church.

And on that day a great persecution arose against the church in Jerusalem. ...Saul began ravaging the church, entering house after house; and dragging off men and women, he would put them in prison. – Acts 8:1, 3 NASB

7. Jesus used Stephen's death and the ensuing persecution to launch a vast (mission movement).

All the believers, except the apostles, were scattered throughout the provinces of Judea and Samaria.... The believers who were scattered went everywhere preaching the message. Philip went to the principal city in Samaria and preached the Messiah to the people there. – Acts 8:2, 4-5 GNT

Now those who had been scattered by the persecution that broke out when Stephen was killed traveled as far as Phoenicia, Cyprus, and Antioch, spreading the word.... – Acts 11:19 NIV