

Being Faithful When It Gets Hard

Acts 6:8—7:60

Unstoppable Power: The Book of Acts

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4 Truths About Being Faithful When It Gets Hard

Introduction

Acts 6:8-15 - Stephen Seized

⁸ *Now Stephen, a man full of God's grace and power, performed great wonders and signs among the people.*

¹² *So they stirred up the people and the elders and the teachers of the law. They seized Stephen and brought him before the Sanhedrin.*

Acts 7:1-53 - Stephen's Speech

⁵¹ *"You stiff-necked people! Your hearts and ears are still uncircumcised. You are just like your ancestors: You always resist the Holy Spirit! ⁵² Was there ever a prophet your ancestors did not persecute? They even killed those who predicted the coming of the Righteous One. And now you have betrayed and murdered him—⁵³ you who have received the law that was given through angels but have not obeyed it."*

Acts 7:54-60—Stoning of Stephen

At this they covered their ears and, yelling at the top of their voices, they all rushed at him, ⁵⁸ dragged him out of the city and began to stone him. Meanwhile, the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul. ⁵⁹ While they were stoning him, Stephen prayed, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." ⁶⁰ Then he fell on his knees and cried out, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." When he had said this, he fell asleep.

1. Be faithful before it gets hard.

2. Expect it to get hard.

3. Bear witness when it's hard.

4. Be willing to pay the ultimate price knowing it's worth the reward.