**BEING A SPIRIT-FILLED OVERCOMER**

**Acts 6:8-7:1**

**THE BIG IDEA: Being filled with the Holy Spirit empowers us to stand firm against opposition while glorifying God in the process.**

**THE OPPOSITION IS NO MATCH FOR A PERSON WHO IS FILLED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT**

* *“Now Stephen, full of grace and power, was performing great wonders and signs among the people. 9 Opposition arose, however, from some members of the Freedmen’s Synagogue, composed of both Cyrenians and Alexandrians, and some from Cilicia and Asia, and they began to argue with Stephen. 10 But they were unable to stand up against his wisdom and the Spirit by whom he was speaking.”* (Acts 6:8-10)
* **While all Christians have the Holy Spirit living in them, not all Christians are living in such a way as to be filled with the Spirit of God.**
* *“And don’t get drunk with wine, which leads to reckless living, but be filled by the Spirit.”* (Ephesians 5:18)
* **When you are walking in the spiritual disciplines of prayer, Scripture reading/study, worship, serving, giving, evangelism, and loving others, the things that derail us are crowded out.**
* *“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, and self-control.”* (Galatians 5:22-23a)
* **We should do regular “fruit” examinations on ourselves to ensure that we are not leaving room for contamination that leads being overcome by sin and opposition.**

**THE OPPOSITION WILL INTENSIFY AS YOU STAND FIRM IN THE FAITH**

* *“Then they secretly persuaded some men to say, ‘We heard him speaking blasphemous words against Moses and God.’ 12 They stirred up the people, the elders, and the scribes; so they came, seized him, and took him to the Sanhedrin. 13 They also presented false witnesses who said, ‘This man never stops speaking against this holy place and the law. 14 For we heard him say that this Jesus of Nazareth will destroy this place and change the customs that Moses handed down to us.’”* (Acts 6:11-14)
* **The Holy Spirit inside you guides you in a way that frustrates opposition to God’s Kingdom agenda.**
* *“Because everyone who has been born of God conquers the world. This is the victory that has conquered the world: our faith.”* (1 John 5:4)
* **No matter what our adversaries do to us in this life we can rest with assurance that we will have the ultimate victory!**

**WHEN A CHRISTIAN IS FULL OF THE HOLY SPIRIT WALKING IN GRACE AND TRUTH, IT WILL BE EVIDENT TO ALL**

* *“And all who were sitting in the Sanhedrin looked intently at him and saw that his face was like the face of an angel.*

***7*** *‘Are these things true?’ the high priest asked.”* (Acts 6:15-7:1)

* **Our lives should be lived in such a way that even our opposers will see the glory of God working through us.**
* *“Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us.”* (1 Peter 2:12)

**CONNECT GROUP DISCUSSION**

**ICE-BREAKER:** What would you stuff yourself with if you knew it was your last meal?

**START THINKING:**

* What are some main themes/ideas in Acts 6:8-7:1?
* Why did Stephen face opposition? What were the accusations against him?
* How did Stephen’s opposers respond when they couldn’t compete with his wisdom?
* What did the phrase “his face was like an angel” signify?

**DIGGING DEEPER:**

* What are the spiritual disciplines that lead to a Spirit-filled life? How are you doing in these disciplines?
* How does the boldness and wisdom of Stephen challenge you to grow in your walk with Jesus?
* How are the Spirit and wisdom related?
* What is at least one thing you can and will do differently going forward?
* What is your BIG takeaway from this study?

**FOCUS**

* Who in your life needs to hear the truth of the Gospel? How has this message/text affected and/or inspired you to reach them?
* Who are you inviting to Church next Sunday?