

UNSTOPPABLE

ACTS: THE MISSION OF JESUS THROUGH HIS CHURCH

UNSTOPPABLE Courage - Pastor Olivia Fandrich

Sermon Notes: March 8, 2026

Text: Acts 6:8-7:60

What does courage look like when following Jesus becomes difficult?

In this message from our Unstoppable series, we look at the story of Stephen in Acts chapters 6 and 7. Stephen was a man described as full of faith, grace, power, and the Holy Spirit. As he preached about Jesus, opposition quickly grew. Religious leaders falsely accused him and brought him before the Sanhedrin.

Stephen's story shows us what courage looks like when faith is tested.

Three truths about courage:

1. Courage speaks the truth.

Stephen refused to compromise or soften the message about Jesus, even when it created conflict.

2. Courage stands firm under pressure.

When the crowd became angry and hostile, Stephen did not back down.

3. Courage trusts God no matter the outcome.

Even in the face of death, Stephen trusted God and responded with forgiveness.

Stephen's courage did not come from personality or strength. Luke repeatedly tells us he was full of the Holy Spirit. The same Spirit who empowered Stephen empowers believers today.

If we want to live with courage, we can remember three simple steps:

Ask God for courage.

Depend on the power of the Holy Spirit.

Take the next faithful step of obedience.

God may not call most of us to face persecution like Stephen did, but He does call us to live courageously for Him each day. Courage often looks like small steps of faith—speaking about Jesus, standing for truth, inviting someone to church, or starting a spiritual conversation.

We may not always see the whole path ahead, but we trust the One who leads us.



Life Group Discussion

Warm-Up:

Choose one of the following questions to start your time together.

- Who is someone you think of as a courageous person? What makes them courageous?
- If you had to give a 30-second definition of courage, how would you describe it?
- What is something small in everyday life that actually requires more courage than people realize?

Study & Discussion:

Read Acts 6:8-15, & 7:54-60 (or all of chapter 7)

1) Acts describes Stephen as full of faith, grace, power, and the Holy Spirit.
Why do you think Luke emphasizes this about Stephen?

2) Stephen chose to speak truth even when it was uncomfortable.
What makes speaking about faith difficult in our culture today?

3) The crowd became furious with Stephen when he challenged them.
Where do Christians today sometimes face pressure for their beliefs (workplace, school, friendships, culture)?

4) Stephen forgave the people who were killing him.
Why do you think forgiveness is such a powerful response?

5) The sermon says courage comes from dependence on the Holy Spirit, not from our own strength.
How does that change the way we think about courage?

6) What might courage look like in your life this week?
Is there a conversation, invitation, or step of obedience God may be calling you to take?

7) Sometimes fear keeps us from speaking about our faith.
What are some fears that might hold someone back from sharing about Jesus?

8) The sermon asked an important question: Are we lacking courage because we are lacking dependence on God? Does this question challenge you? Why or why not?
How do prayer and spiritual habits help build courage over time?

9) Stephen trusted God even though the outcome of his situation looked terrible.
How do we continue trusting God when circumstances don't turn out the way we hope?

10) Who is someone in your life that may not yet know Jesus?
What might courage look like in taking a next step toward sharing your faith with them?

Prayer:

