

# “A WISE MAN UNDER PRESSURE”

*(Acts 6:8-15)*

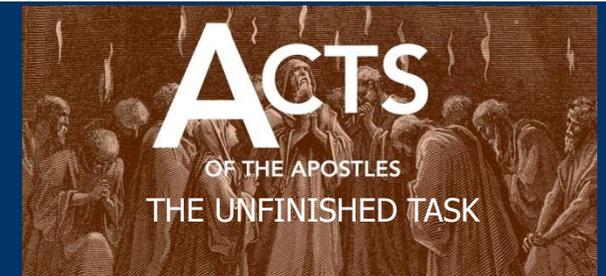
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*Expository Sermon of Acts - Sermon 13*

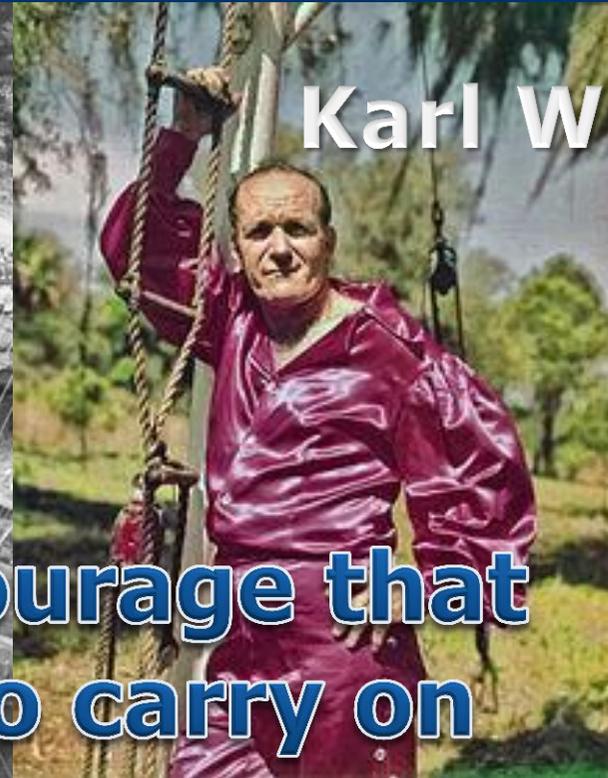
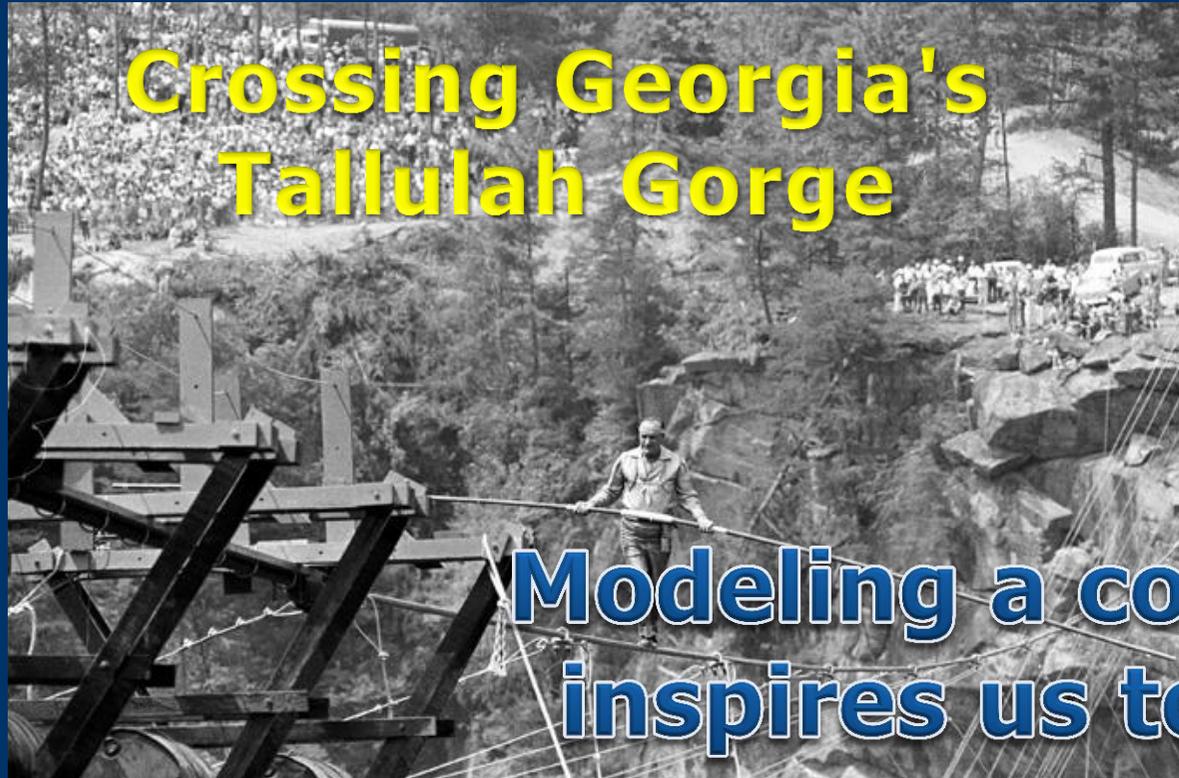
*Speaker: Rev. Bobby Lam*

*Date: January 13, 2019*

*Place: Hope Community Baptist Church*



# INTRODUCTION:



"They don't come to see you killed, but to see a man have the guts to face it," he said. "And maybe our act gives them a little courage to carry on in something themselves."

# INTRODUCTION:

Karl Wallenda



Crossing Georgia's  
Tallulah Gorge



Seven Person  
Pyramid



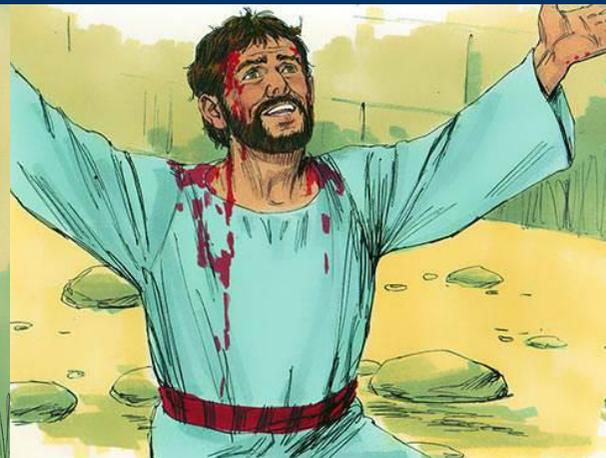
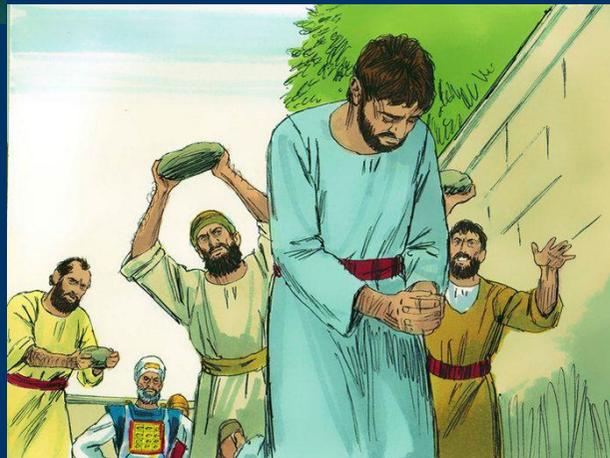
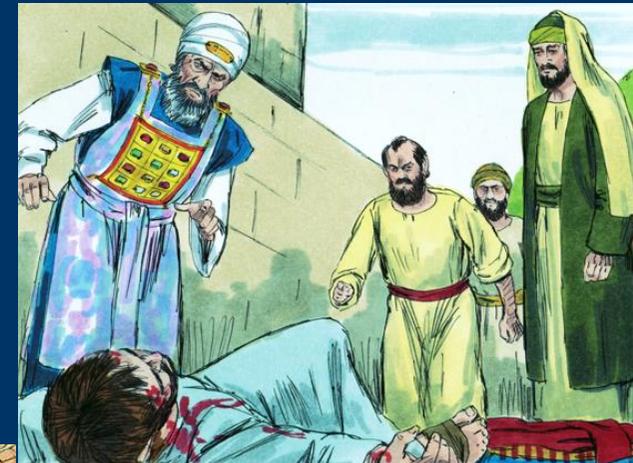
Modeling a courage that inspires us to carry on

"They don't come to see you killed, but to see a man have the guts to face it," he said. "And maybe our act gives them a little courage to carry on in something themselves."

# INTRODUCTION:

Stephen, an ordinary Christian who had the vision to push the limits of faith.

He models a courage that inspires us to carry on.



# I. GENERAL STATE OF THE CHURCH

*Three characteristics of the early church were instrumental in developing a godly man like Stephen.*



- A) The church was not perfect, but it was sensitive.*
- B) The church was not worldwide, but it was growing.*
- C) The church was not endorsed, but it was effective.*

## II. SPECIFIC MINISTRY OF STEPHEN

### *A) Name*

*STEPHEN comes from the Greek word "stephanos", which means "a crown."*



## II. SPECIFIC MINISTRY OF STEPHEN

### *B) Reputation*

*Acts 6:8* Now Stephen, a man full of God's grace and power, performed great wonders and signs among the people.



## II. SPECIFIC MINISTRY OF STEPHEN

### *C) Miracles*

***Acts 6:8** Now Stephen, a man full of God's grace and power, performed great wonders and signs among the people.*



# III. ANGRY REACTION OF THE PEOPLE

## A) *The Synagogue*

**Acts 6:9** *Opposition arose, however, from members of the Synagogue of the Freedmen (as it was called)—Jews of Cyrene and Alexandria as well as the provinces of Cilicia and Asia—who began to argue with Stephen.*



# III. ANGRY REACTION OF THE PEOPLE

## A) *The Synagogue*

### 1) *Argumentation.*

**Acts 6:10** *But they could not stand up against the wisdom the Spirit gave him as he spoke.*

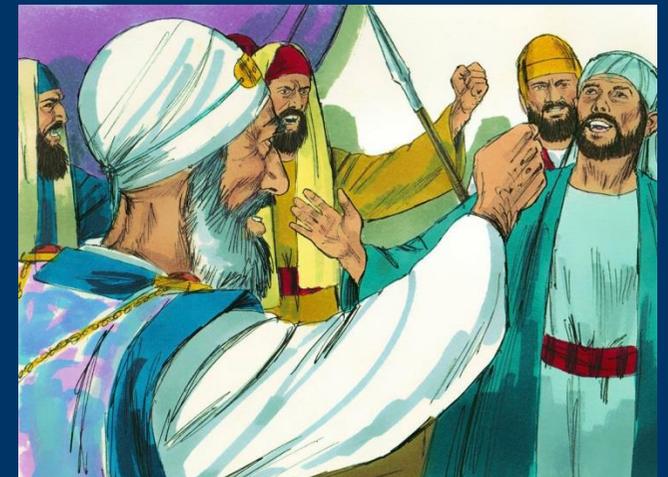


# III. ANGRY REACTION OF THE PEOPLE

## A) *The Synagogue*

### 2) *False accusations.*

**Acts 6:11** *Then they secretly persuaded some men to say, "We have heard Stephen speak blasphemous words against Moses and against God." 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.*

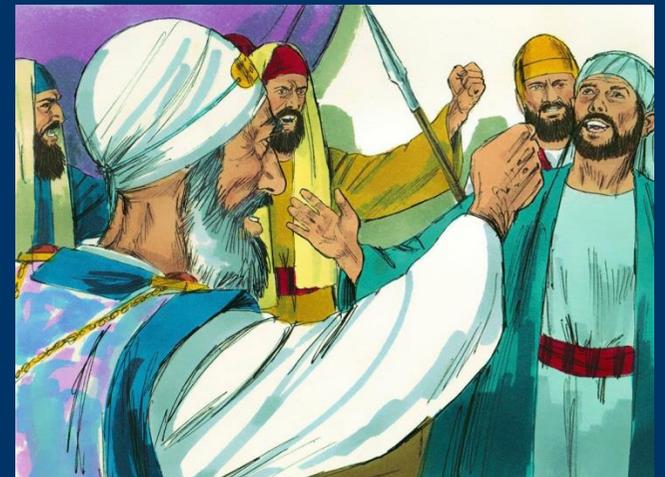


# III. ANGRY REACTION OF THE PEOPLE

## A) *The Synagogue*

### 3) *Violence.*

**Acts 6:12** *So they stirred up the people and the elders and the teachers of the law. They seized Stephen and brought him before the Sanhedrin.*

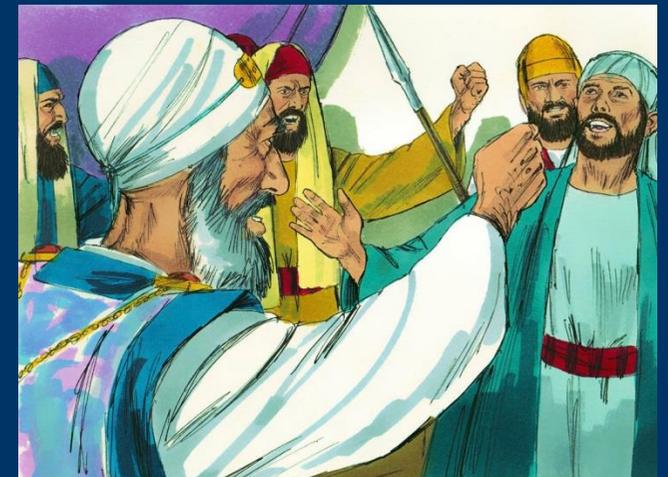


# III. ANGRY REACTION OF THE PEOPLE

## B) *The Sanhedrin*

**Acts 6:13** *They produced false witnesses, who testified, "This fellow never stops speaking against this holy place and against the law. <sup>14</sup> For we have heard him say that this Jesus of Nazareth will destroy this place and change the customs Moses handed down to us."*

- 1) Exaggeration.**
- 2) Misrepresentation.**



# CONCLUSION:

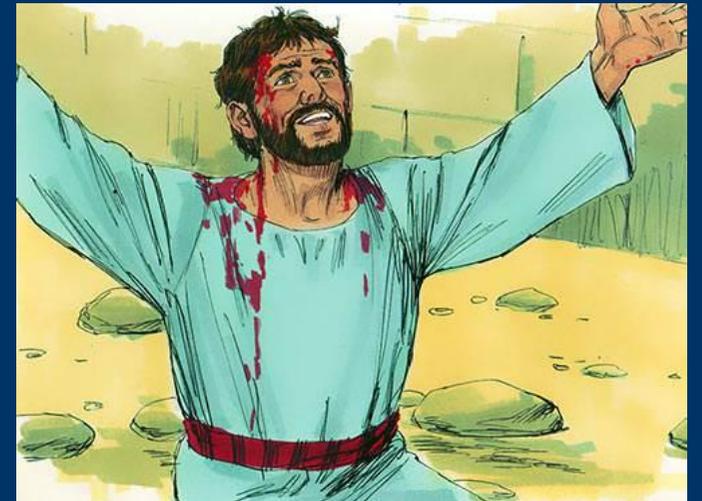


When the outburst finally quiets, all eyes turn toward Stephen,

*Acts 6:15* All who were sitting in the Sanhedrin looked intently at Stephen, and they saw that his face was like the face of an angel.

***A) When we walk with Christ, the public will resent it, not support it.***

***B) When we react like Christ, the pressure will increase, not decrease.***





## CG DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- 1. What drives people from performing death defiling and life threatening stunts?*
- 2. What are the Three characteristics of the early church were instrumental in developing a godly man like Stephen?*
- 3. What makes Stephen stand head above the seven deacons?*
- 4. What are some common tactics employed by the enemies to stop us from witnessing for Christ?*
- 5. How can we have this same kind of peace like Stephen under pressure?*



*Scripture References:  
Acts 6:8-15*