



# **HILLCREST** LIFE GROUPS

## Sermon Discussion Guide

Victorious Living Despite  
Inglorious Circumstances

Acts 6:8-15; 7:54-60

Sunday, December 27, 2020

[www.hillcrest.church](http://www.hillcrest.church)

## Get to Know You

What is your most astounding athletic, movie, or tv show marathon?

## Study the Book

Acts 6:8-15; 7:54-60

What does the name Stephen mean?

How might the Stephen in today's study not live up to this meaning?

## **Four ways to live in victory even when things don't go your way:**

**Be filled with the right things.**

How can we live being full of faith? What are some ways we can be obedient while not worrying about the results?

What are some areas in life in which wisdom is essential?

How can grace and power be coupled together in our lives?

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Stephen was also “full of the Holy Spirit,” as 6:5 and 7:55 say. This does not mean that he spoke in tongues or jumped and shouted in ecstasy. It means that he was letting God control every area of his life. Jesus was doing the leading. Stephen not only **called** Jesus “Lord,” but he allowed Jesus to be Lord.

Pastor Tom

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### **Do the right things.**

Deep discipleship is often doing what we already know we should be doing rather than gaining some new Scriptural insight.

What are some things we often need to be reminded to do to be obedient to God?

### **Say the right things.**

Why is it sometimes difficult to say the right things?

### **Respond to your circumstances in the right way.**

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The real test of Stephen’s character came during his persecution and martyrdom. Sure, before he was full of the right things, and

he did the right things, and he said the right things. But what about when all his goodness got him in trouble? What about when those stones were bludgeoning him to death, and no angel intervened on his behalf? When Stephen saw no physical payoff for being a good man, what then? Clearly, Acts 6 and 7 show that he was still full of the right things, he was still doing the right things, and he was still saying the right things.

Pastor Tom

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How have you seen someone respond the right way in trying circumstances?

### **Personal Application**

How can you respond victoriously in your current circumstances?