

So the Twelve gathered all the disciples together and said, "It would not be right for us to neglect the ministry of the word of God in order to wait on tables. Brothers and sisters, choose seven men from among you who are known to be full of the Spirit and wisdom. We will turn this responsibility over to them. **Acts 6:2–3 (NIV)**

This proposal pleased the whole group. They chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit; also Philip, Procorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolas from Antioch, a convert to Judaism. **Acts 6:5 (NIV)**

So the word of God spread. The number of disciples in Jerusalem increased rapidly, and a large number of priests became obedient to the faith. **Acts 6:7 (NIV)**

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

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. **Acts 6:9 (NIV)**

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

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

## WHEN YOU ARE IN A TOUGH SITUATION

### 1. LOOK \_\_\_\_\_

But Stephen, full of the Holy Spirit, looked up... **Acts 7:55a (NIV)**

But Stephen, full of the Holy Spirit, looked up to heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. **Acts 7:55 (NIV)**

Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. **Colossians 3:1–2 (NIV)**

### 2. LOOK \_\_\_\_\_

And the boat was already a considerable distance from land, buffeted by the waves because the wind was against it. **Matthew 14:24 (NIV)**

"Lord, if it's you," Peter replied, "tell me to come to you on the water." "Come," he said. Then Peter got down out of the boat, walked on the water and came toward Jesus. But when he saw the wind, he was afraid and, beginning to sink, cried out, "Lord, save me!" **Matthew 14:28–30 (NIV)**

"Look," he said, "I see heaven open and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God." **Acts 7:56 (NIV)**

At this they covered their ears and, yelling at the top of their voices, they all rushed at him, 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. **Acts 7:57–58 (NIV)**

For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal. **2 Corinthians 4:17–18 (NIV)**

### 3. LOOK \_\_\_\_\_

While they were stoning him, Stephen prayed, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." 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. **Acts 7:59–60 (NIV)**