



Spirit-Filled and Standing in God's Grace and Power

Parents: Do you remember playing tug of war as a child? Two teams pitted against each other in a test of strength. In our story today, there is a man, Stephen, who had men that were arguing with him, trying to pull him down. The good news—they were no match for God's power and Stephen was filled with it.

Read: *Acts 6: 8-15 Now Stephen, a man full of God's grace and power, performed great wonders and signs among the people. 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. But they could not stand up against the wisdom the Spirit gave him as he spoke. Then they secretly persuaded some men to say, "We have heard Stephen speak blasphemous words against Moses and against God." So they stirred up the people and the elders and the teachers of the law. They seized Stephen and brought him before the Sanhedrin. They produced false witnesses, who testified, "This fellow never stops speaking against this holy place and against the law. For we have heard him say that this Jesus of Nazareth will destroy this place and change the customs Moses handed down to us." All who were sitting in the Sanhedrin looked intently at Stephen, and they saw that his face was like the face of an angel.*

Discuss: Who was the man full of God's grace, wisdom, and power? *Stephen*

What else did God give Stephen the ability to do? *Stephen, being filled with the Holy Spirit has given the ability to perform wonders and signs among the people.*

How did people oppose Stephen? *They began to argue with him and told lies about him.*

How did God bless Stephen and strengthen him? *Through the power of His Holy Spirit, He gave him grace, wisdom, and power to stand up to the opposition and his face became like the face of an angel.*

In what ways can we strengthen ourselves in our Lord our God? *Read the Bible, memorize His Word, pray, talk with other believers, listen to or sing praise music, etc.*

Key Point:

The Holy Spirit Fills Us with Grace and Power

The Holy Spirit Fills Us	(Fingers pointed up over your heads and then to your heart)
With Grace and Power	(Hands out and then bend arms in muscles)

Family Activity: How can we be bright and full of power like a Fourth of July firework? Sharing a verse with others by chalking it on your driveway is one idea. Write Psalm 27:1, "The Lord is my light and my salvation—whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life—of whom shall I be afraid?" or another verse that gives your family encouragement. By the power of the Holy Spirit we can be bright lights standing in God's grace, wisdom and power!

Prayer: Dear God, thank You for your power and your gift of the Holy Spirit. When we have a tug of war between good and evil, help us through the power of Your Spirit to win, to stand strong, and show off Your light to others. We thank You and love You. Amen.

Next Steps: Memorize Psalm 27: 1 or the verse you chose to use to create sidewalk art.



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