



————— ∞ *Acts Part Four, Week One: Our Face in the Face of Adversity* ∞ —————

**Date:** September 6<sup>th</sup>, 2020

**Primary Biblical text:** Acts 6:8-15

**Memory Verse:** 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.*

**Additional Scripture:** Hebrews 7:18-19

**Reading for next week:** Acts 7:1-53

————— ∞ *Reflection and Discussion Notes* ∞ —————

‡ Facing Adversity

‡ In the book of Acts, no story sums up the power of *Christ in Us*, in the face of adversity, than the story of STEPHEN

‡ A predominant pattern: When God is at work, OPPOSITION will arise

‡ Principle of history: When your goal is self-preservation and you can't win with truth, it's all too easy to resort to LIES

† The teaching of Jesus, the Apostles, and Stephen revealed that the Old Covenant system was obsolete, but they never condemned the Hebrew Scriptures as bad or evil. Rather, the Good News of the Gospel always has focused on revealing, and leading people into what is NEW and ALIVE.

† The face of an angel

† Reality! Stephen faced great adversity with the peace and courage of God because he was ALREADY living in the presence and power of his RELATIONSHIP with God.

† The ongoing relationship- what does this look like?

- PRAYER
- God's WORD
- Being active part of the BODY
- The power of genuinely LOVING people
- The recognition that our life is not our OWN

† Stephen was already filled with the Spirit and living out of his relationship with Christ when adversity arrived. But what if we aren't? What then?