**Intro:** Acts 7:2 “And he said, Men, brethren, and fathers, hearken**; The God of glory** appeared unto our father Abraham

* All over the World the race to fix the problems that mankind is facing is at high gear!
* The problems we are facing in this world is that Man doesn’t glorified God!
1. **The Deciding of Stephen Acts 6:8**
* *God’s glory of love us! - Thomas Watson – What a miracle of love is it, that God should love us, when there was nothing lovely in us!*
1. **God’s Love for us is proven by His action of death on the Cross!**
* **Paul boasts is in the Cross** - Galatians 6:14 “But God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world.
1. **We Love God because He first loved us!**
* 1 John 4:19 “We love him, because he first loved us.
1. **Showing your love for God by Obeying His Word -**
* Jesus taught love by Action - John 14:15 “If ye love me, keep my commandments.
* Moses taught Mercy to those that love God by Action! Exodus 20:6 “ And shewing mercy unto thousands of them that love me, and keep my commandments.
1. **The Dedication of Stephen Acts Acts 6:12-15**
* *God’s glory and not our glory! - Allister Begg – It’s all about God. May He forgive us for every time we start to think it’s actually all about us.*
* *Seek God don’t turn your back on God -* ***Jeremiah 45:5*** *“And seekest thou great things for thyself? seek them not:*
* ***Matthew 5:11*** *Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake.*
1. **Stephen didn’t Fear man He Feared God –**
* **Taking a Stand for God - Genesis 42:18 And Joseph said unto them the third day, This do, and live; for I fear God:**
1. **Stephen was trusting in God’s power of His Resurrection –**
* Paul and Peter were mocked to Believe in the Resurrection –
* Acts 4:2 – Peter’s faith in hard times.
* Acts 17:32 – Paul’s Faith in hard times.
* Acts 24:21 – Paul’s suffering for His faith.
* Acts 4:10-12 -Peter Faith & Hope in the Resurrection of Jesus!
1. **God has promise us Heaven and His Saving grace of hope after death!**
* Romans 6:5 “For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection:
* Confident in God’s Power of life – 2 Corinthians 5:8 “We are confident, I say, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord.
1. **The Dealings/Doctrine of Stephen Acts 7:2-53**
* God’s Glory is in His Words -Steve Lawson “any departure from the Scripture is a departure from God Himself
1. **Stephen Believed in God’s Sovereignty in our life –**
* Israel’s 400 years of bondage - Act 7:6 - And God spake on this wise, That his seed should sojourn in a strange land;
1. **Stephen Believed in God’s Goodness to His people –**
* Acts 7:17 “But when the time of the promise drew nigh, which God had sworn to Abraham, the people grew and multiplied in Egypt,
1. Stephen Believed in God’s Hoiness –
* Act 7:33 “Then said the Lord to him, Put off thy shoes from thy feet: for the place where thou standest is holy ground.
1. Stephen Belived in God’s Presence and Power over all things
* Act 7:48-49 “Howbeit the most High dwelleth not in temples made with hands; as saith the prophet, Heaven is my throne, and earth is my footstool: what house will ye build me? saith the Lord: or what is the place of my rest?
* V54 – The rulers of the land kill Stephen -
1. **The Death of Stephen Acts 7:54-60**
* God’s glory in Salvation - John Newton – Although my memory is fading I remember two things very clearly, I am a great sinner and Christ is a Great Savior
1. **Stephen was steadfast on God’s love and will for His life –**
* Act 7:55 “But he, being full of the Holy Ghost, looked up stedfastly into heaven, and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing on the right hand of God,
1. **Stephen was satisfied with God and forgiven those that killed him**
* Act 7:59-60 And they stoned Stephen, calling upon God, and saying, Lord Jesus, receive my spirit. And he kneeled down, and cried with a loud voice, Lord, lay not this sin to their charge. And when he had said this, he fell asleep.

**Conclude:**

**Are you seeking to glorify God in all things in your life?**

* John 1:14 And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.

**Are you praising God for His wonderful Gift of Salvation! Are you Believing In Jesus?**

* 1 John 2:12-13 I write unto you, little children, because your sins are forgiven you for his name's sake. I write unto you, fathers, because ye have known him that is from the beginning. I write unto you, young men, because ye have overcome the wicked one. I write unto you, little children, because ye have known the Father.