

## Believer's Hope Early Church Acts 6:8-15; 7:54-8:1

**John 15:13** *Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends.*

**Luke 9:23** *And he said to all, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me."*

**First, Stephen/martyrs/witnesses live their faith openly in the **public**.**

**Acts 6:9** *But some men from the Synagogue of the Freedmen (as it was called), both Cyrenians and Alexandrians, as well as some from Cilicia and the province of Asia, stood up and argued with Stephen. **10** Yet they were not able to resist the wisdom and the Spirit with which he spoke.*

- Martyrs get killed, not for their convictions, but for expressing their convictions.

***The nobility of a man is bound up 'in his courage' to the truth.***

**Second** characteristic of Stephen is—He was willing to **call** people out.

**Acts 7:51** *You stiff-necked people, uncircumcised in heart and ears, you always resist the Holy Spirit. As your fathers did, so do you.*

**Third** characteristic of Stephen is—He was **not a person who checked the wind of public **opinion****.

**Fourth** characteristic of Stephen is-- **that he was willing to **die****.

**How did they live out their witness?**

- They sought the **experience** with God
- They embraced the **presence** of God
- They lived out the **truths** of God
- They did not compromise the **reality** of God



