

Stephen's Secret

Stuart Briscoe

I. Introduction.

- A. Satan attacked the early church in many ways.
- B. Satan wanted to stop people from presenting Christ to others.
- C. The work of the ministry must be engaged in by every single person to be what God designed it to be.

II. Stephen was of the people and by the people.

- A. The church was intended to be a work of the people.
- B. The bulk of the ministry must be done by those in the pews.

III. An irreproachable life, irrefutable works, and are among the qualities that were important for the selection of these lay leaders.

IV. Stephen's secret was that he was full of the Holy Spirit.

- A. Everybody is filled with something.
- B. Stephen believed that Christ died for him and lived in him.
- C. When Stephen became utterly abandoned to Christ, Christ became utterly abandoned to him.
- D. The fullness of the Spirit is commitment not ecstatic experience.
- E. Stephen lived by faith as a result of this fullness, which is trusting and obeying.

Application questions:

1. Why must the church focus on lay ministry in order to be successful?

2. Which quality for lay leadership do you find to be most essential Explain.

3. What is the filling of the Holy Spirit? How does one obtain it?
