

If you were put on the spot, would you be able to give an adequate defense for what you believe or would you crumble like a wet noodle? In our text today, Stephen, is gifted and expert at defending and proving the truth of Christianity. Stephen, Stephen, full of faith is our example of the power and perils of apologetics.

### Why you should be able to defend your faith:

- #1. It will help you defeat your own doubts
- #2. It will make you a better witness.
- #3. You will be able help others grow strong in their faith.

### Apologetics is the study and discipline of defending the faith.

- 1 Pet 3:15 – be ready to give a defense.
- Col 4:5-6 You should know how to answer.
- 2 Cor 10:4-5 The truth destroys every argument against God.

## MIRACLES ARE APOLOGETIC EVIDENCE OF CHRISTIANITY - 8

Stephen was full of faith and power.

If you are going to be a good witness, you need faith.

Faith Makes Ministry Effective.

1 Peter 3:15 “set apart the Lord God in your heart.”

God used Stephen to do great signs, wonders and miracles.

“signs” Are an apologetic evidence of Christianity.

He did extraordinary miracles, we receive providential miracles!

When God answers prayer we should tell others about it!

Answers to prayers are meant to be apologetic.

Miracles are the result of faith, not generators of it.

## Rational Arguments are Evidence of Christianity 9-10

The synagogue of freedmen was built by Jews who once were slaves.

They made a concerted effort to prove Stephen wrong.

“Dispute” συζητέω “question, enquire, reason, seek answers.”

Positive apologetics: an argument for the validity Christianity.

Negative apologetics answering objections against Christianity.

God is not against using your mind.

We are not afraid of questions, because Jesus has the answer.

If you want wisdom you need to study God’s Word.

## Persecution may be the Response to Apologetics 11-15

Some people don’t like to be proven wrong!

10 The Jews lost the argument.

11 they doubled down and decided to discredit Stephen.

12 they arrested him and brought him to court

You can give the best answers and still be met with unbelief.

Faith is unmoved by opposition. Stephen didn’t pale and fear opposition; instead, he had a glow of faith and love for Jesus. You could see it glistening! You could sense it. It sparkled in his eye and shone from his face. His life and his lips were a powerful apologetic for the kingdom of God. Lord make me a Stephen, that I may be used by you.