

Stepping Into...

Uncertainty

“Faith doesn't reduce
uncertainty. Faith
embraces uncertainty.”

Mark Batterson

1. God is Active in Uncertainty!

Acts 6:1 & 3 NLT

¹ “But as the believers rapidly multiplied, there were **rumblings of discontent**. The Greek-speaking believers complained about the Hebrew-speaking believers, saying that their widows were being discriminated against in the daily distribution of food.”

³ “...select seven men who are **well respected** and are **full of the Spirit and wisdom**.”

2. Solving Uncertainty...Brings Change

Acts 6:7-8 NLT

⁷ So **God's message continued to spread**. The number of believers greatly increased in Jerusalem, and many of the Jewish priests were converted, too. ⁸ **Stephen**, a man full of **God's grace** and **power**, performed amazing miracles and signs among the people.

3. Understand Sources of Uncertainty...

Acts 6:9-10 NIV

⁹ **Opposition arose**, however, from members of the Synagogue of the Freedmen (as it was called)—Jews of Cyrene and Alexandria as well as the provinces of Cilicia and Asia—who began to argue with Stephen. ¹⁰ But they could not stand up against the **wisdom the Spirit gave** him as he spoke.

Opportunity
Opposition

"The lens of fear magnifies
the size of uncertainty."

Charles R. Swindoll

4. God Meets Us in Uncertainty

Acts 6:12 & 15 NIV

¹² So **they stirred up the people** and **the elders** and the **teachers of the law**. They seized Stephen and brought him before the Sanhedrin.

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**.

5. Overcome Uncertainty: With Truth...

**Pressure, stress
fear and doubt:**

Phil. 4:6-7 NLT “⁶ Don’t worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done. ⁷ Then you will experience God’s peace, which exceeds anything we can understand.”

**Weak and
vulnerable:**

Deut. 31:6 NLT “⁶ So be strong and courageous! Do not be afraid and do not panic before them. For the Lord your God will personally go ahead of you. He will neither fail you nor abandon you.”

**Confusion, hard
decision making:**

Jer. 33:3 ESV “³ Call to me and I will answer you, and will tell you great and hidden things that you have not known.”

6. God Changes Destiny In Uncertainty

Acts 7:54-58 NIV

⁵⁴ When the members of the Sanhedrin heard this, they were furious and gnashed their teeth at him. ⁵⁵ But Stephen, **full of the Holy Spirit**, looked up to heaven and **saw the glory of God**, and **Jesus standing** at the right hand of God. ⁵⁶ “Look,” he said, “I see heaven open and the Son of Man **standing at the right hand of God.**” ⁵⁷ At this they covered their ears and, yelling at the top of their voices, they all rushed at him, ⁵⁸ dragged him out of the city and began to stone him. Meanwhile, the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a **young man named Saul.**

7. Uncertainty – What about the Future?

Matt 24:1-8 ESV

³ As he sat on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to him privately, saying, “Tell us, when will these things be, and what will be the sign of your coming and of the close of the age?”

⁴ And Jesus answered them, “**See that no one leads you astray.** ⁵ For many will come in my name, saying, ‘I am the Christ’, and they will lead many astray. ⁶ **And you will hear of wars and rumours of wars. See that you are not alarmed, for this must take place, but the end is not yet.** ⁷ For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom, and there will be famines and earthquakes in various places. ⁸ **All these are but the beginning of the birth pains.**

8. Uncertainty – Opens New Chapters

Acts 8:1 & 5 NLT

¹ ... A great wave of **persecution began** that day, sweeping over the church in Jerusalem; and all the believers except the apostles were scattered ...

⁵ **Philip**, for example, went to the **city of Samaria** and told the people there about the Messiah.

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