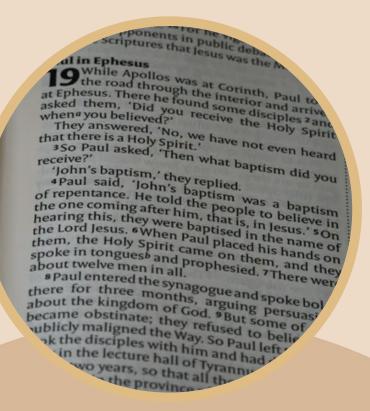
Spirit-Filled Courage: Lessons from Stephen's Martyrdom



Explore Stephen's bold witness as the first Christian martyr and discover the power of Spirit-filled courage for your own faith journey.





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Introduction

Welcome to a transformative 21-day journey exploring the life and martyrdom of Stephen, the first Christian martyr. Stephen's story, found in the Book of Acts, is a profound testament to the power of faith, the role of the Holy Spirit, and the courage it takes to stand boldly for Christ even in the face of death.

Stephen's unwavering commitment to Christ, his Spirit-empowered testimony before the Sanhedrin, and his prayer of forgiveness for those who killed him challenges us to reflect deeply on what it means to bear witness in our own lives. As you journey through these 21 days, you will encounter Scripture passages illuminating Stephen's boldness and the Spirit's empowering presence. You will be encouraged to examine your own willingness to stand firm and to respond to opposition with grace and truth.

This study is structured not only to dive into the historical and theological significance but also to inspire personal transformation—equipping you with Spirit-filled courage to witness effectively in your everyday life. Each day offers an insightful devotional, reflective questions, journaling prompts, and a prayer to help root what you learn deeply within your heart.

Let Stephen's example ignite a holy boldness within you, drawing you closer to God's Spirit and strengthening your resolve to be a fearless witness for Christ in today's world. Get ready to embark on a powerful exploration of







Spirit-led witness, sacrificial love, and enduring faith throughout this Bible study.









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Day 1: 🖰 Stephen: A Spirit-Filled Servant

Your Verse

Acts 6:5 - "They chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit."

Supporting Scriptures

- Acts 6:3 "Look out for seven men... full of the Spirit and wisdom."
- Galatians 5:22–23 "Fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace..."







Day 1: 6 Stephen: A Spirit-Filled Servant

Devotional: Foundation of Spirit-Filled Service

Stephen's story begins with his selection as one of seven men to serve the early church—men chosen for their strong faith and Holy Spirit-filled character. This speaks volumes about the importance of being empowered by the Spirit in service and witness. Stephen wasn't just a believer; he was a man deeply connected to God, exhibiting qualities that reflected the Spirit's fruit.

His boldness would stem from this foundation—faith enlivened and directed by God's Spirit. In our own lives, being Spirit-filled means more than feeling religious affection; it's about living empowered for God's purposes with His peace, joy, love, and courage flowing through us. Stephen's example challenges us to seek the fullness of the Spirit not just for personal growth but to serve others and to witness boldly.

As we start this study, consider: How full are you of the Spirit? Are you open to cultivating the fruit of the Spirit daily? This is the wellspring of courage we need to stand firm like Stephen.







Day 1: 💍 Stephen: A Spirit-Filled Servant

Reflect and Apply

1.	How do I recognize the Holy Spirit's work in my life and service?
2.	In what ways can I cultivate fruit of the Spirit to prepare for bold witness?
3.	What areas of my faith need the empowerment of the Spirit?







Day 1: 💍 Stephen: A Spirit-Filled Servant

Journaling Prompts

1.	List ways you have sensed the Holy Spirit's presence recently.
2.	Write about a time you served others with faith and wisdom.
3.	Identify one fruit of the Spirit you want to grow stronger.







Day 1: 🖰 Stephen: A Spirit-Filled Servant

Prayer for Today

Heavenly Father, thank You for the example of Stephen, who was filled with Your Spirit and faith. Help me to invite Your Spirit into every part of my life so I may serve with courage and wisdom. Shape me to display the fruits of the Spirit that strengthen my witness to others. Fill me anew with Your power today and every day. In Jesus' name, *amen*.







Day 2: Stephen's Wisdom Through the Spirit

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Day 2: Through the Spirit

Your Verse

Acts 6:10 - "They could not stand up against the wisdom the Spirit gave him as he spoke."

Supporting Scriptures

- 1 Corinthians 2:4 "My message and my preaching were not with wise and persuasive words, but with a demonstration of the Spirit's power."
- Proverbs 2:6 "For the Lord gives wisdom; from his mouth come knowledge and understanding."







Day 2: Through the Spirit

Devotional: Spirit-Given Wisdom in Trials

The early opponents of Stephen found themselves powerless to refute his Spirit-inspired teaching and defense of the gospel. This was not merely human wisdom but divine insight flowing directly from the Holy Spirit. Stephen's speech, infused with God's wisdom, pierced hearts and exposed truth with unshakable authority.

As believers today, we are called to speak the truth courageously, but never relying solely on human argument or eloquence. It is the Spirit within us who grants wisdom beyond natural ability. When we face challenges, opposition, or persecution, the Spirit equips us to answer rightly, to offer grace-filled responses, and to proclaim God's kingdom boldly.

This day is a reminder that wisdom for witness is not self-generated brilliance but Spirit-empowered clarity that can confound even the toughest critics.







Day 2: The Stephen's Wisdom Through the Spirit

Reflect and Apply

1.	How can I depend more on the Spirit's wisdom when sharing my faith?
2.	Have I experienced times when God's wisdom helped me speak boldly?
3.	What fears do I need to surrender to trust the Spirit's guidance?







Day 2: The Stephen's Wisdom Through the Spirit

Journaling Prompts

1.	Recall a situation where you needed wisdom — how did you respond?
2.	Write a prayer asking God to fill you with Spirit-led wisdom.
3.	List scriptures about wisdom you find encouraging.







Day 2: Through the Spirit

Prayer for Today

Lord God, I ask for Your Spirit's wisdom in every conversation and challenge I face. Teach me to rely on Your strength, not my own words, and to glorify You through Spirit-led courage and truth. Guide my tongue and heart as I witness for You. In Jesus' powerful name, *amen.*









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Your Verse

Acts 7:51-52 - "You always resist the Holy Spirit!"

Supporting Scriptures

- Acts 4:31 "They were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly."
- Ephesians 6:19 "Pray also for me, that whenever I speak, words may be given me."







Devotional: Courageous Witness in Opposition

Stephen confronts the religious leaders with fearless truth, accusing them of resisting the Holy Spirit as their forefathers did. His bold proclamation shows a heart unafraid to call sin by its name and to preach God's message unapologetically.

Boldness to proclaim Christ does not originate from human courage but from being filled and led continuously by the Spirit. In our own cultural contexts, speaking the gospel openly can be met with resistance or ridicule. Stephen's example challenges us to remain unshaken, confident in God's presence and purpose.

Being bold also requires humility and dependence on God's timing, trusting He will use our faithful witness to touch hearts even when we don't see immediate results.







Reflect and Apply

1.	What fears hold me back from boldly proclaiming Christ?
2.	How can I cultivate daily sensitivity to the Holy Spirit's leading in speech?
3.	How does Stephen's courage inspire me to face opposition?







Journaling Prompts

1.	Write about a time you were bold for Christ despite fear.
2.	List areas where you want God to increase your courage.
3.	Pray for opportunities to witness boldly this week.







Prayer for Today

Dear Holy Spirit, fill me afresh with boldness to speak Your truth with love and clarity, even when it is difficult or opposed. Strengthen my heart to trust Your guidance and timing. May my life be a fearless testimony to Your saving power. In Jesus' name, *amen*.







Day 4: W Filled with the Holy Spirit's Power

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Day 4: 😂 Filled with the Holy Spirit's Power

Your Verse

Acts 7:55 - "But Stephen, full of the Holy Spirit, looked up to heaven."

Supporting Scriptures

- Luke 24:49 "You will be baptized with the Holy Spirit."
- Romans 8:11 "The Spirit who raised Jesus from the dead lives in you."







Day 4: 😂 Filled with the Holy Spirit's Power

Devotional: Empowered to Endure with Joy

As Stephen faces his accusers and impending death, he is described as "full of the Holy Spirit" — a powerful image of divine presence and strength. This fullness enabled him to gaze beyond his earthly danger to behold God's glory and to stand unwavering amid persecution.

The Holy Spirit empowers believers not only for service but for perseverance under trial. When threatened, it is the Spirit's power that upholds and encourages us, reminding us that our hope and citizenship are ultimately in heaven.

Stephen's gaze toward heaven challenges us to fix our eyes upward no matter the storm, to rely on the Spirit's sustaining power through every hardship we face.







Day 4: "S Filled with the Holy Spirit's Power

Reflect and Apply

1.	In my struggles, do I remember to look to God's glory and presence?
2.	How can I invite the Holy Spirit to fill me more completely?
3.	What does it mean to be 'full of the Holy Spirit' in daily life?







Day 4: 🐯 Filled with the Holy Spirit's Power

Journaling Prompts

1.	Describe a moment when God's presence gave you strength.
2.	List challenges where you need Spirit-filled endurance now.
3.	Write a prayer asking for fullness of the Holy Spirit.







Day 4: 🥰 Filled with the Holy Spirit's Power

Prayer for Today

Spirit of God, fill me completely as You did Stephen, so I might stand firm and joyful through trials. Help me to fix my eyes on heaven and the eternal hope I carry. Empower me with Your presence today and always. In Jesus' name, amen. 😂 🐪 🙏







Day 5: 🗱 Vision of Jesus at the Right Hand

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Day 5: 🛠 Vision of Jesus at the Right Hand

Your Verse

Acts 7:56 - "Look, I see heaven open and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God."

Supporting Scriptures

- Hebrews 1:3 "He sits at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven."
- John 17:1 "Jesus raised his eyes to heaven and prayed."







Day 5: 💥 Vision of Jesus at the Right Hand

Devotional: Hope Anchored in Christ's Authority

Stephen's vision of Jesus standing at God's right hand provides assurance of Christ's authority and imminent deliverance. In ancient times, the right hand symbolized honor and power, and Jesus standing there reveals an active, victorious intercession for His people.

Despite brutal opposition, Stephen witnesses the reality of Christ's sovereign reign, which comforts and emboldens him as he faces death.

This vision challenges us to remember that Jesus is our advocate and Lord, standing ready to uphold His followers. When trials come, envisioning Christ's presence and power can embolden our faith and give peace that transcends circumstances.







Day 5: 🎇 Vision of Jesus at the Right Hand

Reflect and Apply

	How does the vision of Jesus at God's right hand strengthen my faith during hardship?
2.	Have I truly embraced Jesus as my advocate before God?
3.	How can this vision shape my attitude toward suffering?







Day 5: 🎇 Vision of Jesus at the Right Hand

Journaling Prompts

1. Reflect on what it means that Jesus intercedes for you.	
-	
2.	Write about a time your faith was strengthened by God's presence.
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•	
3.	Pray for a fresh vision of Christ's power and authority.







Day 5: 🗱 Vision of Jesus at the Right Hand

Prayer for Today









Day 6: A Prayer of Forgiveness

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Day 6: A Prayer of Forgiveness

Your Verse

Acts 7:60 - "Lord, do not hold this sin against them."

Supporting Scriptures

- Luke 23:34 "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing."
- Matthew 5:44 "Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you."







Day 6: A Prayer of Forgiveness

Devotional: Grace to Forgive Like Stephen

In his final moments, Stephen's prayer of forgiveness echoes the heart of Christ Himself on the cross. This remarkable grace demonstrates the power of Spirit-filled courage coupled with a forgiving heart.

Forgiveness amid persecution is a profound witness to God's love and transforms even the darkest moments into testimonies of redemption.

Stephen's example encourages believers to release bitterness and pray for those who harm us, showcasing a radical trust in God's justice and mercy.







Day 6: 🙏 Prayer of Forgiveness

Reflect and Apply

1.	Are there people I need to forgive to walk in Spirit-filled courage?
2.	What barriers keep me from praying for my enemies?
3.	How does forgiveness deepen my witness?







Day 6: 🙏 Prayer of Forgiveness

Journaling Prompts

1.	Write about a time you experienced or offered forgiveness.
2.	List people you find hard to forgive and pray for them.
3.	Ask God to soften your heart toward those who oppose you.







Day 6: A Prayer of Forgiveness

Prayer for Today

Gracious Father, help me to forgive others as Stephen did, reflecting Your love and mercy. When faced with hurt or opposition, teach me to pray for those who persecute me, entrusting them to Your righteous hand. May Your grace flow through me always. In Jesus' name, *amen.* \swarrow









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Your Verse

1 Corinthians 16:13 – "Be on your guard; stand firm in the faith; be courageous."

Supporting Scriptures

- Ephesians 6:10 "Be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power."
- Philippians 1:27 "Stand firm in one Spirit."







Devotional: Resolute Faith through God's Strength

Stephen's martyrdom underscores the need for believers to stand firm in their faith regardless of external pressures. The early church faced intense challenges, yet Spirit-filled courage enabled them to remain faithful to the gospel.

Paul's exhortations echo this call to vigilance, courage, and strength rooted in the Lord, reminding us that faithfulness requires intentional perseverance.

Standing firm begins with a close walk with God, reliance on His power, and trusting Him for victory rather than the outcome being in our control. Today's focus invites you to examine your spiritual stance and commit anew to unwavering faith.







Reflect and Apply

1.	Where do I need to stand firmer in my faith?
2.	How can I rely more fully on God's strength?
3.	What challenges tempt me to compromise my witness?







Journaling Prompts

1.	Identify areas in life where you struggle to stand firm.
2.	Write a declaration of faith to speak aloud when discouraged.
3.	Pray for courage to remain steadfast in trials.







Prayer for Today

Mighty God, empower me to stand firm in my faith with courage and vigilance. Strengthen my heart and mind to trust You fully, even when faced with opposition or uncertainty. Be my source of strength today and always. In Jesus' name, *amen.* &









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Your Verse

Acts 4:29 – "Stretch out your hand to heal and perform signs and wonders through the name of your holy servant Jesus."

Supporting Scriptures

- 1 Peter 3:15 "Always be prepared to give an answer for the hope you have."
- Colossians 4:5-6 "Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders."







Devotional: Living Out Bold Faith Daily

The early Christians boldly declared the gospel not only in big moments but through everyday life marked by prayer, wisdom, and acts of love. Stephen's example reflects this integration of bold proclamation and Spirit-led action.

Witnessing doesn't require grand settings; it flows naturally from lives saturated with God's presence. We are encouraged to live out and speak our faith with intentionality, readiness, and grace in ordinary interactions.

Consider how your daily conversations, choices, and kindness can serve as powerful testimonies to God's work within you.







Reflect and Apply

1.	In what everyday situations can I witness more boldly?
2.	Do my actions align with my proclamation of faith?
3.	How can I prepare myself to give an answer with gentleness?







Journaling Prompts

1.	Record recent opportunities you had to share your faith.
2.	Make a plan for intentional witness this week.
3.	Ask God for wisdom and boldness in daily encounters.







Prayer for Today

Holy Spirit, guide me to be a faithful and bold witness in everyday life. Help me to speak with clarity and love, and to live in a way that draws others to You. Equip me with grace to represent Christ well. In Jesus' name, *amen.*









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Your Verse

Acts 1:14 - "They all joined together constantly in prayer."

Supporting Scriptures

- Romans 8:26 "The Spirit helps us in our weakness."
- James 5:16 "The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective."







Devotional: Prayer: Our Source of Boldness

Prayer was the foundation of the early church's power and unity, as illustrated in the community that supported Stephen. Spirit-led prayer invites God's intervention and strengthens believers for bold witness.

Stephen's courage arose in a context of intimate connection with God, nurtured by persistent, Spirit-empowered prayer.

This study encourages you to deepen your prayer life, paying heed to the Spirit's guidance, interceding for others, and seeking boldness to act according to God's will.







Reflect and Apply

1.	How consistent and Spirit-led is my prayer life?
2.	Do I pray specifically for courage to witness?
3.	How can I include others in prayer to build boldness together?







Journaling Prompts

1.	Write a record of recent prayers and their outcomes.
2.	Set spiritual goals to enhance your prayer consistency.
3.	Pray for a Spirit-driven posture of courage and faith.







Prayer for Today

Father, draw me closer in prayer, filling me with Your Spirit. Teach me to rely on You in every situation, especially when I need boldness. Unite me in prayer with others to build courage and faithfulness. In Jesus' name, *amen.* \bigwedge 1







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Your Verse

2 Timothy 1:7 - "For the Spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us power, love and self-discipline."

Supporting Scriptures

- John 15:18 "If the world hates you, keep in mind it hated me first."
- 1 John 4:18 "Perfect love drives out fear."







Devotional: Perfect Love Overcoming Fear

Stephen's martyrdom reveals that the Spirit frees us from fear, equipping us to love courageously in the face of opposition. The world may be hostile to believers, but God's Spirit empowers us to respond with passion, power, and self-control.

Love rooted in God's perfect nature drives out the fear that would otherwise silence us.

Reflect on how fear or hostility might hinder your witness and how embracing the Spirit's gifts can renew your boldness.







Reflect and Apply

1.	What fears about opposition or rejection do I face?
2.	How can I embrace God's love to overcome fear?
3.	What steps can I take to walk boldly despite hostility?







Journaling Prompts

1.	Write about fears you have concerning your faith witness.
2.	List ways you can practice self-discipline in your spiritual walk.
3.	Pray for love to replace fear in challenging situations.







Prayer for Today

Holy Spirit, cast out fear and fill me with Your power, love, and discipline. Help me to respond to hostility with grace and boldness rooted in perfect love. Strengthen me to witness courageously in a challenging world. In Jesus' name, amen. 😂 🎔 💪









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Your Verse

Acts 7:51 - "You always resist the Holy Spirit; you are just like your ancestors."

Supporting Scriptures

- John 8:32 "You will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."
- 2 Timothy 3:16 "All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful."







Devotional: Standing Firm in God's Truth

Stephen's bold proclamation accused the leaders of resisting the Spirit and truth. Faithfulness to God's truth requires courage to speak clearly—even when it confronts others. The Word of God is our foundation and guide, empowering us to be honest and loving witnesses.

Remaining faithful involves commitment to Scripture and the Spirit's guidance rather than cultural opinion or compromise.

Consider how truth is central to your witness and how you respond when your faith challenges prevailing views.







Reflect and Apply

1.	Am I willing to stand for God's truth regardless of opposition?
2.	How well do I know Scripture to defend my faith?
3.	Do I seek the Spirit's guidance in understanding and sharing truth?







Journaling Prompts

1.	Identify a scripture that strengthens your faith.
2.	Write a time your faith was challenged—how did you respond?
3.	Pray for courage to uphold truth with love.







Prayer for Today

Father, help me to be faithful to Your truth, bold in proclamation, and loving in correction. Let Your Word and Spirit guide me always as I witness to others. In Jesus' name, *amen*.









Day 12: // Hope Beyond Persecution

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Day 12: 6 Hope Beyond Persecution

Your Verse

Revelation 2:10 – "Be faithful, even to the point of death, and I will give you life as your victor's crown."

Supporting Scriptures

- 2 Corinthians 4:17 "Our momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory."
- Romans 8:18 "The sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory."







Day 12: 🌈 Hope Beyond Persecution

Devotional: Eternal Hope Empowers Endurance

Stephen's witness points beyond earthly suffering to eternal reward—a hope that sustains through pain and death. Believers facing persecution can take courage knowing God promises victory and eternal life.

The promise of the victor's crown encourages steadfastness and turns temporary trials into triumph stories through faith.

Reflect on how hope in God's eternal promises can empower you to face hardships and to witness faithfully despite loss.







Day 12: 🌈 Hope Beyond Persecution

Reflect and Apply

1.	How strong is my hope in God's promises amid trials?
2.	Do I view suffering from an eternal perspective?
3.	How can hope transform my attitude toward persecution?







Day 12: 🌈 Hope Beyond Persecution

Journaling Prompts

1.	Write about your understanding of eternal rewards.
2.	Reflect on how hope has helped in past difficulties.
3.	Pray for strengthened hope and endurance.







Day 12: 6 Hope Beyond Persecution

Prayer for Today

Lord, anchor my soul in the sure hope of eternal life. Help me to endure trials with faith, knowing You hold the victor's crown for me. Strengthen me to witness boldly with heaven's perspective. In Jesus' name, *amen*.









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Your Verse

Acts 2:42 – "They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer."

Supporting Scriptures

- 1 Corinthians 12:13 "By one Spirit we were all baptized into one body."
- Ephesians 4:3 "Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit."







Devotional: Strengthening Courage Through Unity

Stephen was part of a unified church community grounded in teaching, fellowship, and prayer. The Spirit fosters unity that strengthens believers to face challenges and to witness boldly together.

Our individual courage is often sustained by corporate faith and support. Being part of a Spirit-filled community encourages and equips us.

Examine your connection to community and consider how mutual support uplifts Spirit-filled courage.







Reflect and Apply

1. I	How connected do I feel to my church community?
_	
_	
2. I	n what ways does fellowship and prayer support my faith?
_	
_	
3. I	How can I contribute to the unity and encouragement of others?
_	







Journaling Prompts

1.	Write about a time community helped your faith.
2.	List ways you can engage more deeply with your church.
3.	Pray for unity and encouragement within your fellowship.







Prayer for Today

God of unity, thank You for the gift of community and Spirit-led fellowship. Help me to draw strength from others and to encourage those around me in bold witness. Protect and unify Your church for Your glory. In Jesus' name, amen. 💛 🖏 🙏









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Day 14: Bearing Fruit Through Trials

Your Verse

James 1:2-3 - "Consider it pure joy... when you face trials... the testing of your faith produces perseverance."

Supporting Scriptures

- John 15:5 "If you remain in me, you will bear much fruit."
- Romans 5:3-4 "Suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; character, hope."







Day 14: Bearing Fruit Through Trials

Devotional: Joyful Growth Through Trials

Trials do not hinder Spirit-filled fruitfulness; instead, they cultivate perseverance, character, and hope. Stephen's boldness emerged amid severe testing, nurturing a profound witness that changed history.

Remaining rooted in Christ during hardships enables us to bear spiritual fruit that honors God and encourages others.

Reflect on how struggles are shaping your faith and prompting growth through the Spirit's work.







Day 14: 🥦 Bearing Fruit Through Trials

Reflect and Apply

1.	Do I see trials as opportunities for growth?
2.	How am I bearing fruit during difficult seasons?
3.	What character traits has God developed in me through challenges?







Day 14: 🥦 Bearing Fruit Through Trials

Journaling Prompts

1.	Write about recent growth during challenges.
2.	Identify fruit of the Spirit you see developing.
3.	Pray for joy and perseverance in hardship.







Day 14: 🥦 Bearing Fruit Through Trials

Prayer for Today

Lord, give me grace to view trials with joy, knowing You are working to mature my faith. Let perseverance produce character and hope that glorifies You. Strengthen me to bear much fruit through the Spirit's power. In Jesus' name, *amen.*









John's baptism, 'they replied.

of repentance. He told the people to believe in the lord Jesus. 6 When Paul placed his hands on spoke in tongues^b and prophesied. 7 There were heard shout they are more than the holy Spirit. 10 John's baptism, 'they replied. 10 John's baptism, 'they replied. 10 John's baptism, 'they replied. 11 John's baptism, 'they replied. 12 John's baptism, 'they replied. 13 John's baptism, 'they replied. 14 John's baptism was a baptism the one coming after him, that is, in Jesus.' 5 John's paul placed his hands on the Lord Jesus. 6 When Paul placed his hands on spoke in tongues^b and prophesied. 7 There were there for three months, arguing persuasi there for three months, arguing persuasi became obstinate; they refused to believe in the lecture hall of Tyrannia wo years, so that all the province.







Your Verse

Ephesians 6:11 - "Put on the full armor of God."

Supporting Scriptures

- 2 Timothy 2:3 "Endure hardship with us like a good soldier of Christ Jesus."
- Psalm 18:2 "The Lord is my rock, my fortress and my deliverer."







Devotional: Prepared for Spiritual Battle

Spirit-filled boldness requires intentional spiritual defense. Paul's call to put on God's armor reminds us that witness involves ongoing preparation and protection against spiritual attacks.

Like Stephen, who faced hostility with courage, we are called to stand firm equipped with truth, righteousness, peace, faith, salvation, and the Word of God.

Today is an invitation to assess your spiritual armor and commit to putting it on daily by faith and reliance on the Spirit.







Reflect and Apply

1.	Am I consistently putting on God's armor?
2.	Which piece of the armor do I struggle to apply?
3.	How does the armor of God enable boldness?







Journaling Prompts

1.	List the pieces of God's armor and how you use them.
2.	Write a prayer committing to spiritual preparedness.
3.	Reflect on a spiritual battle where you needed God's strength.







Prayer for Today

God Almighty, equip me with Your full armor to stand firm and courageous amid spiritual battles. Help me to clothe myself daily with truth, righteousness, and faith. Be my rock and fortress in every trial. In Jesus' name, *amen*.







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Your Verse

Acts 6:11 – "They secretly persuaded men to say, 'We have heard Stephen speak blasphemous words against Moses and against God."

Supporting Scriptures

- Matthew 5:11 "Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you... falsely say all kinds of evil."
- 1 Peter 3:16 "Keep a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously may be ashamed."







Devotional: Grace Amid False Accusations

Stephen faced false accusations orchestrated by his opponents, yet he kept his conscience clear and responded with truth. Spirit-filled courage involves standing firm even when slander or lies are spread about us.

We must learn to discern when we are being slandered and respond with grace, trusting God to vindicate us rather than retaliate in anger.

Stephen's example teaches that faithful witness includes endurance through unjust attacks and holding fast to God's truth.







Reflect and Apply

	Have I experienced false accusations or misunderstandings in my faith walk?
2.	How do I typically respond to slander or gossip?
3.	What can I learn from Stephen's grace under such attacks?







Journaling Prompts

1.	Write about a time you faced unjust criticism.
2.	Pray for grace to respond well to false accusations.
3.	List scriptures that remind you of God's justice.







Prayer for Today

Lord, when I face false accusations or opposition, give me grace to endure with a clear conscience and speak Your truth in love. Protect my heart from bitterness and help me to trust You for justice. In Jesus' name, *amen.* \bigwedge







Day 17: 🎇 Inspiring Faith for Future Generations

In Ephesus

19 While Apollos was at Corinth, Paul to at Ephesus. There he found some disciples 2 and when 9 you believed?

They answered, 'No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit.'

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Day 17: 💥 Inspiring Faith for Future Generations

Your Verse

Hebrews 12:1 - "Let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us."

Supporting Scriptures

- Psalm 78:4 "We will tell the next generation the praiseworthy deeds of the Lord."
- 2 Timothy 4:7 "I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race."







Day 17: 💥 Inspiring Faith for Future Generations

Devotional: Leaving a Legacy of Faith

Stephen's boldness has inspired countless believers throughout history to persevere in faith. His story reminds us that our witness impacts generations beyond ourselves.

Running the race with endurance means embracing our role as spiritual ancestors to those who come after us.

Reflect on the legacy you are building through your Spirit-filled courage and witness.







Day 17: 🎇 Inspiring Faith for Future Generations

Reflect and Apply

1.	What spiritual legacy do I want to leave behind?
2.	In what ways can my witness encourage future believers?
3.	How does perseverance shape my faith journey?







Day 17: 🎇 Inspiring Faith for Future Generations

Journaling Prompts

1.	Write about someone whose faith impacted you.
2.	Consider what values you want to pass on.
3.	Pray for strength to run your race well.







Day 17: 💥 Inspiring Faith for Future Generations

Prayer for Today

Father, help me to run the race of faith with perseverance, leaving a legacy that honors You. Use my life and witness to inspire others to boldness and love. Strengthen me to finish well. In Jesus' name, *amen.* \rat{R} \rat{A}







Day 18: The Role of the Holy Spirit in Witness

Alin Ephesus

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Day 18: 🖓 The Role of the Holy Spirit in Witness

Your Verse

Acts 1:8 - "You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you."

Supporting Scriptures

- John 14:26 "The Advocate, the Holy Spirit... will teach you all things."
- Romans 8:14 "Those led by the Spirit of God are children of God."







Day 18:

The Role of the Holy Spirit in Witness

Devotional: Guided and Empowered by the Spirit

The Holy Spirit is essential in empowering believers for effective witness and teaching. Stephen's Spirit-filled ministry exemplifies living under the Spirit's guidance and power.

The Spirit equips us to understand Scripture, to proclaim the gospel, and to respond with divine love and strength.

Commit today to seeking deeper dependence on the Spirit in all aspects of your walk, especially in your bold witness.







Day 18: \bigcirc The Role of the Holy Spirit in Witness

Reflect and Apply

1.	How am I experiencing the Holy Spirit's power in my witness?
2.	Do I seek Spirit-led guidance daily?
3.	What areas need more Spirit-led transformation?







Day 18: \bigcirc The Role of the Holy Spirit in Witness

Journaling Prompts

1.	Write about moments when you sensed the Spirit's guidance.
2.	Pray for greater openness to the Spirit's work.
3.	List ways you can depend more on the Spirit.







Day 18:

The Role of the Holy Spirit in Witness

Prayer for Today

Holy Spirit, empower and guide me daily to be a faithful and bold witness. Teach me Your truth and fill me with Your love and strength. Make me wholly Yours to glorify God in all I do. In Jesus' name, *amen*. \$\mathbb{Y} \bigce\$









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Your Verse

Romans 12:1 - "Offer your bodies as living sacrifices."

Supporting Scriptures

- Philippians 1:21 "To live is Christ and to die is gain."
- Matthew 16:24 "If anyone wants to follow me, he must deny himself."







Devotional: Wholehearted Surrender to Christ

Stephen's martyrdom represents the ultimate sacrifice—giving one's life for the sake of Christ. Living sacrificially means surrendering personal comfort and security to follow Jesus fully.

Spirit-filled courage requires a heart willing to embrace God's calling wholeheartedly, even when it is costly.

Evaluate what sacrifices you are called to make and how the Spirit empowers you to follow without fear.







Reflect and Apply

What does living sacrificially mean in my current context?
How can I better surrender control to God's will?
Am I willing to face cost for the sake of Christ?







Journaling Prompts

1.	Identify any fears or reservations in surrendering to God.
2.	Write a prayer of surrender and commitment.
3.	List small sacrifices you can make today for God's kingdom.







Prayer for Today

Lord Jesus, teach me to live as a living sacrifice, fully surrendered to Your will. Give me courage to embrace sacrifice joyfully, trusting Your plan above my own. Help me to follow You boldly every day. In Your name, *amen*.









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Day 20: Sharing the Gospel with Love

Your Verse

Colossians 4:6 - "Let your conversation be always full of grace."

Supporting Scriptures

- 1 Corinthians 13:4-7 "Love is patient, love is kind..."
- Ephesians 4:15 "Speak the truth in love."







Day 20: Sharing the Gospel with Love

Devotional: Grace-Filled Gospel Testimony

Bold witness, like Stephen's, is most effective when marked by love and grace. Speaking truth directly does not contradict gentleness and compassion.

Love opens hearts that might otherwise resist the gospel and reflects Christ's character in us.

Today, examine your manner of sharing faith and commit to cultivating both boldness and love in your testimony.







Day 20: 💬 Sharing the Gospel with Love

Reflect and Apply

1.	How loving and gracious is my gospel witness?
2.	Do I balance truth with empathy when sharing faith?
3.	What changes can I make to be a more loving witness?







Day 20: 💬 Sharing the Gospel with Love

Journaling Prompts

1.	Reflect on a time you shared your faith with grace.
2.	Identify ways to improve your communication of the gospel.
3.	Pray for a heart overflowing with God's love.







Day 20: Sharing the Gospel with Love

Prayer for Today

Father, help me to share Your gospel with boldness wrapped in love and grace. Let my words reflect compassion and truth, drawing others to You. Fill me with Your love today and always. In Jesus' name, *amen*. •







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Your Verse

Acts 1:8 - "You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you."

Supporting Scriptures

- Psalm 27:1 "The Lord is my light and my salvation—whom shall I fear?"
- 2 Corinthians 3:12 "Since we have such a hope, we are very bold."







Devotional: Go Forth with Spirit-Filled Boldness

Throughout these 21 days, we have witnessed the power of Spirit-filled courage exemplified in Stephen's life and death. Now, as you conclude this study, be encouraged that the same Spirit who empowered Stephen is at work in you.

Boldness for witness comes as you live connected to God, submit to the Spirit's leading, and trust fully in Christ's authority and presence.

May your faith be strengthened and your courage renewed, knowing you are called to be a light in the world.







Reflect and Apply

	What is the greatest lesson from Stephen's example you will carry forward?
2.	How will you rely on the Spirit's power going forward?
3.	What first step will you take to witness boldly starting today?







Journaling Prompts

1.	Summarize your personal growth during this study.
2.	Write a prayer committing yourself to Spirit-filled boldness.
3.	Plan an intentional act of witness in your community.







Prayer for Today

Holy Spirit, empower me now to be a bold witness for Christ as Stephen was. Fill me daily with Your presence, courage, and wisdom to proclaim the gospel fearlessly. Use me for Your glory and kingdom expansion. In Jesus' mighty name, *amen*.







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