



# The Death of Stephen: Heaven Opens



Explore the faithful witness of Stephen as he faces death, revealing heaven's glory and inspiring steadfast faith in Christ.

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## Introduction

**The Death of Stephen: Heaven Opens** invites you on a profound 21-day journey through the life and final moments of Stephen, the first Christian martyr. As we explore this dramatic and deeply moving biblical event, we witness not just the somber reality of martyrdom, but the awe-inspiring vision of heaven breaking through the earthly realm.

Stephen's story, found in *Acts 6-7*, is a compelling testament to faith under fire. Chosen as one of the first deacons, he dedicated himself to serving the early church with unwavering commitment. His courage amidst persecution, his profound wisdom, and his ultimate sacrifice give us a window into what it means to be truly steadfast in Christ.

Throughout these 21 days, you will journey alongside Stephen as he preaches boldly before the Sanhedrin, endures false accusations, and prays fervently for his enemies. Most strikingly, we will explore the moment that changes everything — when Stephen, full of the Holy Spirit, gazes into heaven and sees the glory of God. His vision of Jesus standing at the right hand of God assures us that even in moments of suffering and death, the kingdom of heaven breaks through.

This study is not just about historical reflection but a living encounter with God's promise of eternal life and vindication. Let Stephen's example inspire your faith, embolden your witness, and deepen your understanding of the

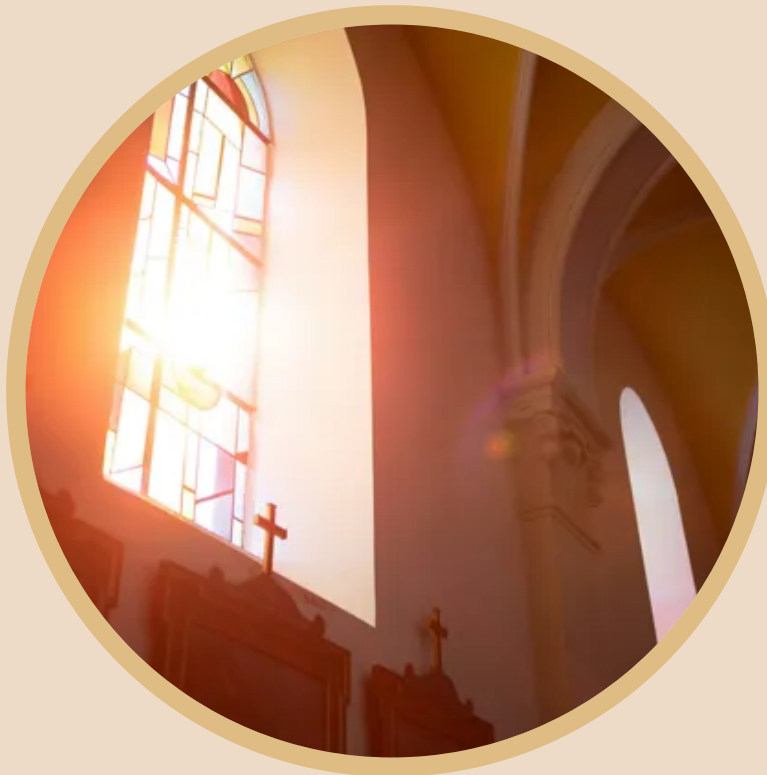


hope that sustains believers through trials. As heaven opens, so too can your heart open to the power and peace of God's presence.





# Day 1: Meet Stephen: A Man Full of Faith



Day 1: 🔑 Meet Stephen: A Man Full of Faith

## Your Verse

*Acts 6:5 - “This proposal pleased the whole group. They chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit...”*

## Supporting Scriptures

- *Acts 6:3 - “Brothers and sisters, choose seven men from among you who are known to be full of the Spirit and wisdom.”*
- *Luke 6:45 - “A good man brings good things out of the good stored up in his heart...”*




## Devotional: Full of Faith and Spirit: Stephen's Beginning

Stephen's story begins with his faith and service. He was recognized not only for his character but for being *full of the Holy Spirit*. In a church growing rapidly, the apostles appointed Stephen to help with practical needs, trusting him to embody God's wisdom and grace. His example challenges us to cultivate the Spirit's presence in our own lives.

Faith is not only belief but action motivated by God's guidance. Stephen's life encourages us to serve with integrity and rely on the Spirit's power daily. Are we open to wherever God calls us to serve, even when it's inconvenient or challenging? Stephen's life invites us to commit fully with trust that God equips and leads us.





Day 1:  Meet Stephen: A Man Full of Faith

## Reflect and Apply

1. How does Stephen's example of faith encourage you in your current walk with God?

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2. In what practical ways can you become 'full of the Holy Spirit' today?

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3. What areas of service might God be calling you to that require trust and courage?

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Day 1: 🔑 Meet Stephen: A Man Full of Faith

## Journaling Prompts

1. Write about a time when your faith led you to serve others.

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2. Reflect on how being 'full of the Spirit' changes your actions and mindset.

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3. List three ways you can invite the Holy Spirit to fill and guide you.

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Day 1: 🔍 Meet Stephen: A Man Full of Faith

## Prayer for Today

**Lord, fill me with Your Spirit as You did with Stephen.** Help me to be faithful, bold, and wise to serve Your church and those around me. May my life reflect Your power and love every day. Strengthen my heart to trust Your guidance and to walk humbly in Your ways. *In Jesus' name, Amen.* 🙏🔥🌟





## Day 2: Bold Witness in the Face of Opposition



## Your Verse

*Acts 6:8 – “Stephen, full of God’s grace and power, performed great wonders and signs among the people.”*

## Supporting Scriptures

- *Acts 7:51 – “You stiff-necked people! Your hearts and ears are still uncircumcised...”*
- *2 Timothy 1:7 – “For the Spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us power, love and self-discipline.”*



## Devotional: Powerful Witness: Confidence in God's Grace

**Stephen's witness was not just gentle service; it was powerful and bold.** God empowered him to perform wonders and speak truth even amid rising hostility. His courage is an example that believers are called to be bold in proclaiming God's truth, knowing the Spirit equips us not with fear but with strength. Often, our faith journey will include opposition, but Stephen teaches us that God's grace goes before us, enabling us to stand firm.

Being a witness means sometimes speaking hard truths with love, confronting injustice, and trusting God to work through our weakness. How do you respond when your faith is challenged? Stephen's story encourages us to embrace boldness empowered by God's grace rather than shrinking back in fear.



## Reflect and Apply

1. When has God called you to speak boldly for Him despite opposition?

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2. How can you prepare your heart to face challenges with grace and courage?

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3. What does your boldness say about your trust in God's power versus your own strength?

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## Journaling Prompts

1. Describe a situation where God gave you courage to witness boldly.

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2. Write about your feelings toward opposition in your faith journey and how God is shaping you.

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3. List scriptures that inspire you to live boldly for Christ.

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Day 2: 🧑 Bold Witness in the Face of Opposition

## Prayer for Today

**Holy Spirit, empower me to witness boldly.** Help me to remember that You give power, love, and self-discipline. May my words and actions glorify Jesus, especially when opposition comes. Strengthen my spirit and remove all fear.

*In Jesus' name, Amen.* 💪🙏🔥





## Day 3: ⚖️ Facing False Accusations



## Your Verse

*Acts 6:11 – “They secretly persuaded some men to say, ‘We have heard Stephen speak blasphemous words against Moses and God.’”*

## Supporting Scriptures

- *1 Peter 4:14-16 – “If you are insulted because of the name of Christ, you are blessed... do not be ashamed.”*
- *Matthew 5:11 – “Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me.”*



## Devotional: Grace in the Face of Falsehood

**Faithfulness doesn't guarantee fair treatment.** Stephen faced false accusations intended to discredit his ministry and lead to his demise. Yet, his response teaches us how to handle slander and injustice — with grace, truth, and steadfastness. In the face of unmerited criticism, Stephen remained anchored in God's truth and did not allow the enemy to derail his witness.

We live in a world where misunderstandings and wrongful accusations can come against us. Stephen's example encourages believers to respond with integrity and trust God as our ultimate vindicator. How do you handle moments when others speak falsely about your faith or character? Embracing God's peace helps us bear such trials with unwavering hope.



## Reflect and Apply

1. How do you respond when misunderstood or falsely accused because of your faith?

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2. What can you learn from Stephen's composure under false accusations?

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3. How does trusting God provide strength in times of injustice?

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Day 3:  Facing False Accusations

## Journaling Prompts

1. Write about a time you faced false criticism and how God helped you.

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2. Reflect on ways to prepare your heart for unjust treatment.

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3. List Bible verses that bring you peace when wrongly accused.

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Day 3: 🙏 Facing False Accusations

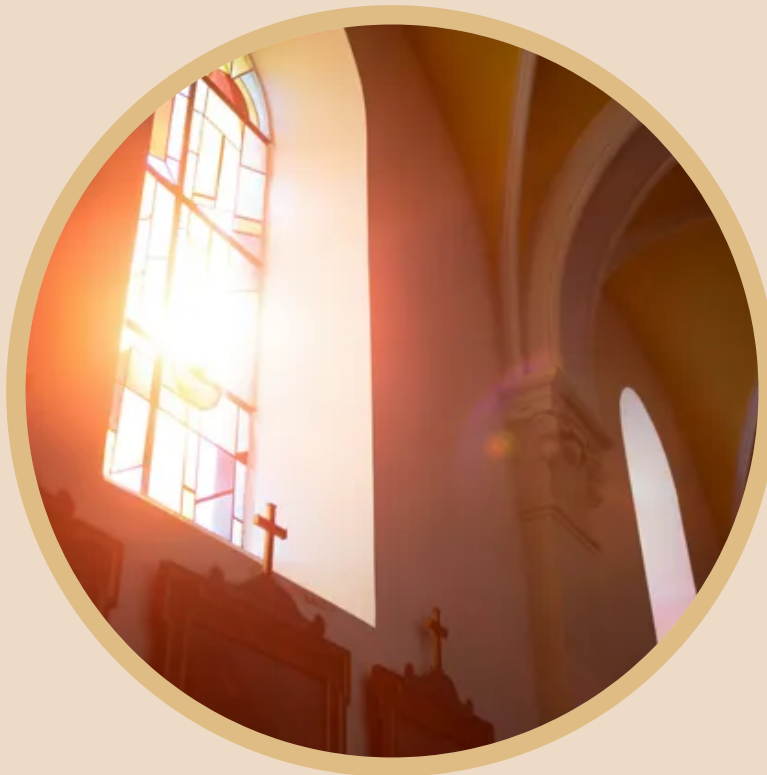
## Prayer for Today

Jesus, when falsely accused, You remained silent yet full of truth. Teach me to respond with grace and to trust Your justice. Guard my heart from bitterness and help me shine Your light in adversity. May my witness reflect Your love no matter what. *In Christ's name, Amen.* ✨🙌🙏





## Day 4: ✨ Full of the Holy Spirit and Wisdom





Day 4: ✨ Full of the Holy Spirit and Wisdom

## Your Verse

*Acts 6:10 - “But they could not stand up against the wisdom the Spirit gave him as he spoke.”*

## Supporting Scriptures

- *James 1:5 - “If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God...”*
- *Colossians 1:9 - “We continually ask God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all the wisdom and understanding...”*



Day 4: ✨ Full of the Holy Spirit and Wisdom

## Devotional: Divine Wisdom Empowers Bold Speech

**Stephen's strength was not only in his faith but in the wisdom granted by the Holy Spirit.** His opponents could not resist his message because of the Spirit's power at work. This wisdom comes not from human intellect but divine insight, enabling believers to speak truth effectively and with discernment.

In our own lives, seeking God's wisdom is essential to navigate challenges and share our faith. Like Stephen, we can ask for the Spirit's guidance so that our words and actions honor God and impact others meaningfully. Are you regularly seeking God's wisdom in your daily decisions and conversations?



Day 4: ✨ Full of the Holy Spirit and Wisdom

## Reflect and Apply

1. In what areas of your life do you need God's wisdom today?

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2. How can the Holy Spirit guide you to speak truth in love?

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3. What steps can you take to cultivate a deeper reliance on the Spirit's wisdom?

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Day 4: ✨ Full of the Holy Spirit and Wisdom

## Journaling Prompts

1. Write about a time you received unexpected wisdom from God.

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2. Reflect on how wisdom has changed outcomes in your life or faith journey.

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3. Pray for wisdom in specific situations and journal your requests.

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Day 4: ✨ Full of the Holy Spirit and Wisdom

## Prayer for Today

**Father, grant me Your wisdom through Your Holy Spirit.** Help me to speak with clarity and love, reflecting Your truth confidently. Guide my heart and mind in every interaction so that Your glory shines through. Thank You for Your unfailing guidance. *In Jesus' name, Amen.* 🙏📖✨





## Day 5: 📖 Stephen's Sermon Before the Council



## Your Verse

*Acts 7:2 – “To this he replied: ‘Brothers and fathers, listen to me!...”*

## Supporting Scriptures

- *Psalm 105:8 – “He remembers his covenant forever, the promise he made, for a thousand generations.”*
- *Hebrews 11:13 – “All these people were still living by faith when they died...”*



## Devotional: A Bold Scriptural Witness

**Stephen's defense before the Sanhedrin is both a recounting of Israel's history and a call to repentance.** He skillfully connects God's faithfulness through generations with Israel's repeated rejection of His messengers. This sermon reveals Stephen's deep knowledge of Scripture and his boldness in confronting religious leaders.

His message challenges us to examine our own responsiveness to God's voice and to recognize Jesus as the promised Messiah. How often do we, like the religious leaders, resist God's work because it doesn't align with our expectations? Stephen's sermon invites heartfelt self-reflection and a renewed embrace of God's plan.





## Reflect and Apply

1. What truths in Stephen's sermon resonate most with you today?

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2. Are there ways you resist or delay God's work in your life?

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3. How can you courageously stand for God's truth even in opposition?

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## Journaling Prompts

1. Summarize Stephen's main points in your own words and reflect on their impact.

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2. Write about times when God convicted you to change your heart.

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3. Pray for a heart sensitive to God's voice and willing to obey.

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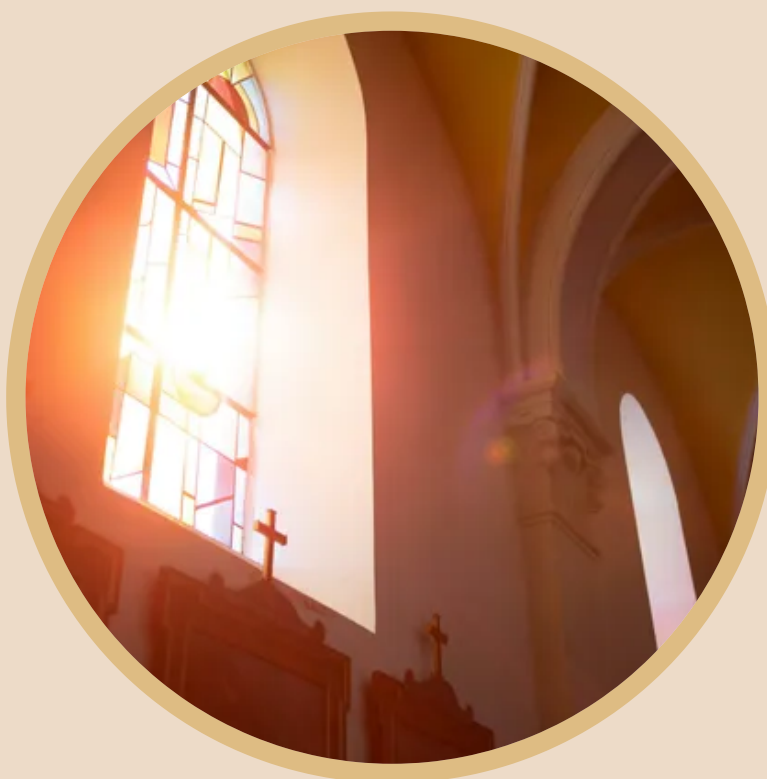
Day 5: 📖 Stephen's Sermon Before the Council

## Prayer for Today

**Lord, open my ears and heart to Your truth.** Help me to embrace Your word fully and respond with courage and obedience. Remove any hardness or resistance so I may faithfully follow You every day. Strengthen me to speak boldly for Your kingdom. *In Jesus' name, Amen.* 📖 🔥 🙏



## Day 6: ☞ Remembering God's Faithful Servants



## Day 6: 📖 Remembering God's Faithful Servants

## Your Verse

*Acts 7:20 – “At that time Moses was born, and he was no ordinary child. For three months he was cared for by his family.”*

## Supporting Scriptures

- *Hebrews 11:24-25 – “By faith Moses... chose to be mistreated along with the people of God rather than to enjoy the fleeting pleasures of sin.”*
- *Exodus 3:12 – “I will be with you...”*



## Devotional: God's Providential Care Revealed

**Stephen recounts the story of Moses to illustrate God's ongoing faithfulness.** Even from infancy, Moses was protected and called to lead God's people. This reminder of God's providence encourages us that our lives are part of a larger divine story. Just as God used Moses despite challenges, He can use us to fulfill His purposes.

Faith often requires endurance and trust, just as Moses exhibited. Stephen's reflection on Moses compels us to remember the heroes of faith who paved the way before us and to draw courage from their examples.



## Reflect and Apply

1. Who are the faith heroes in your life who inspire your walk with God?

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2. How does Moses' story encourage you in your own challenges?

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3. In what ways can you see God's providence in your life's story?

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# Journaling Prompts

1. Write about a biblical hero whose faith encouraged you.

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2. Reflect on times when God's care was evident in difficult situations.

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3. Pray for trust in God's guidance through your journey.

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Day 6: 📖 Remembering God's Faithful Servants

## Prayer for Today

**Father, thank You for Your faithfulness throughout history and my life. Help me to trust in Your providence and to persevere like Moses. Use me for Your glory and remind me daily that You are always with me. *In Jesus' name, Amen.*** 🙏🛡️📖





## Day 7: 🔥 The Spirit's Power Amid Persecution



## Your Verse

*Acts 7:55 - "But Stephen, full of the Holy Spirit, looked up to heaven and saw the glory of God..."*

## Supporting Scriptures

- *John 14:26 - "But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things..."*
- *Romans 8:26 - "The Spirit helps us in our weakness."*



## Devotional: Empowered by the Holy Spirit in Trials

**In perilous moments, the Holy Spirit empowers the believer.** Stephen, facing imminent death, was filled with the Spirit, granting him a vision of God's glory. This moment exemplifies the Spirit's role as our Comforter, Teacher, and Strengthener, especially when circumstances seem overwhelming.

We are reminded that the Spirit equips us beyond human capacity to endure and witness courageously. When trials come, do you turn to the Spirit for help and peace? Stephen's experience encourages us to depend on God's power, confident that He is present even in the darkest hours.



## Reflect and Apply

1. How have you experienced the Holy Spirit's guidance in difficult times?

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2. What does Stephen's vision teach you about God's presence during suffering?

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3. How can you cultivate a deeper reliance on the Spirit daily?

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# Journaling Prompts

1. Write about a time the Holy Spirit comforted or strengthened you.

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2. Reflect on moments when you've sensed God's glory amid hardship.

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3. Pray for greater sensitivity to the Spirit's leading.

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Day 7: 🔥 The Spirit's Power Amid Persecution

## Prayer for Today

**Holy Spirit, fill me afresh with Your power and peace.** Help me to see God's glory even in trials and to stand firm in faith. Teach me to depend fully on You and to reflect Your presence to others. *In Jesus' name, Amen.* 🕊️🔥👁️





## Day 8: 🙏 Heaven Opens: A Vision of Glory





## Your Verse

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

## Supporting Scriptures

- *Revelation 4:1 - "Come up here, and I will show you what must take place after this."*
- *Hebrews 12:2 - "Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith."*



## Devotional: Heaven Revealed: Eyes Fixed on Jesus

**In the final moments before his martyrdom, Stephen's eyes are fixed on heaven.** His vision of Jesus standing at God's right hand is a powerful affirmation of Christ's exaltation and our hope beyond this life. This glimpse into heaven assures believers that death is not the end but a transition to eternal life with God.

For Stephen, this vision sustained him amid suffering and gave him peace to pray for those who killed him. It challenges us to fix our eyes on Jesus, the source of our hope and strength. How often do you meditate on heaven's reality and Christ's victory? Stephen's story encourages us toward heavenly mindedness that anchors us firmly during earthly trials.



## Reflect and Apply

1. How does the reality of heaven affect the way you live today?

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2. What do you feel when you contemplate seeing Jesus face to face?

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3. How can you maintain focus on eternal promises amidst daily struggles?

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# Journaling Prompts

1. Describe your hopes and dreams for heaven based on Scripture.

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2. Write about how the vision of Jesus gives you peace in tough times.

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3. Pray for God to help you live with an eternal perspective.

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Day 8: 👁️ Heaven Opens: A Vision of Glory

## Prayer for Today

**Jesus, You are my hope and my glory.** Help me to fix my eyes on You, the author and finisher of my faith. When I face trials, remind me of the open heaven and the promise of eternal life with You. Strengthen me to follow Your example in faith and forgiveness. *Amen.* ✨ 🏰 🙏





## Day 9: 🙏 Forgiveness in Final Moments



Day 9: 🙏 Forgiveness in Final Moments

## Your Verse

*Acts 7:60 – “Lord, do not hold this sin against them.” When he had said this, he fell asleep.*

## 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 9: 🙏 Forgiveness in Final Moments

## Devotional: Radical Forgiveness: A Martyr's Example

**Stephen's last words reveal a heart fully surrendered to Christ's example of forgiveness.** Even as stones rained down on him, he prayed for mercy on his attackers. This radical forgiveness reflects the new covenant's power to overcome hatred and violence with love.

Forgiving those who hurt us is one of the hardest commands of Jesus. Stephen's witness challenges us to ask if we harbor unforgiveness or bitterness. Are we willing to pray blessings for those who oppose us? Embracing forgiveness brings freedom and reflects the transformative power of Christ's love.





## Reflect and Apply

1. Who do you find difficult to forgive, and why?

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2. How can Stephen's example inspire you toward greater forgiveness?

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3. What steps are you willing to take to release bitterness and embrace peace?

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Day 9: 🙏 Forgiveness in Final Moments

## Journaling Prompts

1. Write a letter of forgiveness to someone (even if you don't send it).

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2. Reflect on the healing power of forgiving others and yourself.

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3. Pray for a forgiving heart and freedom from resentment.

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Day 9: 🙏 Forgiveness in Final Moments

## Prayer for Today

**Lord Jesus, teach me to forgive as You forgive.** Free me from anger and bitterness, and help me to love even those who hurt me. May Your grace flow through me, bringing healing and peace. Thank You for the ultimate gift of forgiveness. *Amen.* ❤️ 🙌 🙏





# Day 10: 🏠 Stephen's Legacy: Inspiration for All



Day 10: 🏠 Stephen's Legacy: Inspiration for All

## Your Verse

*Acts 7:59-60 - "While they were stoning him, Stephen prayed... Then he fell asleep."*

## Supporting Scriptures

- *Hebrews 12:1 - "Let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us."*
- *2 Timothy 4:7 - "I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith."*



Day 10: 🏠 Stephen's Legacy: Inspiration for All

## Devotional: A Faithful Finish: Stephen's Enduring Impact

**Stephen's life and death have inspired countless believers to steadfast faith.** His martyrdom reminds us that faithfulness may require sacrifice but assures us of eternal reward. He ran his race well, fully committed to God's call despite suffering.

His testimony compels each of us to evaluate our own commitment and perseverance. Are we running our spiritual race with endurance and passion? Stephen's legacy is one of unwavering fidelity and hope grounded in God's promises.



## Reflect and Apply

1. What does it mean for you to 'finish the race' of faith?

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2. How can Stephen's example motivate your commitment today?

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3. In what ways can you encourage others in their spiritual journey?

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Day 10: 🏠 Stephen's Legacy: Inspiration for All

## Journaling Prompts

1. Reflect on your spiritual journey and areas for growth.

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2. Write about what perseverance in faith looks like in your life.

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3. Pray for strength and endurance to remain faithful to God.

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Day 10: 🏠 Stephen's Legacy: Inspiration for All

## Prayer for Today

**God, help me to run the race of faith with endurance.** Strengthen my commitment, even when the path is difficult. May Stephen's example inspire me to trust You fully and witness boldly until the end. *In Jesus' name, Amen.*





## Day 11: ✨ Serving the Church with Faithfulness



Day 11: ✨ Serving the Church with Faithfulness

## Your Verse

*Acts 6:1-4 - “Brothers and sisters, choose seven men from among you... we will give our attention to prayer and the ministry of the word.”*

## Supporting Scriptures

- *1 Corinthians 12:28 - “God has placed in the church first of all apostles, second prophets, third teachers... helpers.”*
- *Galatians 6:9 - “Let us not become weary in doing good...”*



Day 11: ✨ Serving the Church with Faithfulness

## Devotional: Faithful Service Builds God's Church

**Stephen was appointed to a key role in serving the early church.** His service allowed the apostles to focus on prayer and preaching. His faithfulness in this role underscores the importance of serving wherever God calls.

Not all of us are called to be speakers or leaders, but every act of faithful service glorifies God and strengthens the body. Reflect on where you serve or how God might be inviting you to serve more fully. Faithfulness in the small things precedes greater impact.



Day 11: ✨ Serving the Church with Faithfulness

## Reflect and Apply

1. Where has God placed you to serve in His church or community?

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2. How can faithful service deepen your relationship with God?

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3. What challenges or joys have you experienced in serving others?

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Day 11: ✨ Serving the Church with Faithfulness

## Journaling Prompts

1. Write about a service role that has been meaningful to you.

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2. Reflect on ways to grow in faithfulness in your current service.

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3. Pray for passion and perseverance in serving God and others.

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Day 11: ✨ Serving the Church with Faithfulness

## Prayer for Today

**Lord, guide me to serve You faithfully.** Help me to embrace whatever role You've called me to with joy and dedication. May my service reflect Your love and build up Your church. *In Jesus' name, Amen.* 🙌❤️🙏





## Day 12: The Power of Scripture in Witness





## Your Verse

*Acts 7:51-53 - “You stiff-necked people! Your hearts and ears are still uncircumcised...”*

## Supporting Scriptures

- *2 Timothy 3:16 - “All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching...”*
- *Hebrews 4:12 - “For the word of God is alive and active...”*



## Devotional: Scripture: Our Guide and Witness

Stephen's sermon demonstrates profound knowledge and application of **Scripture**. His use of God's Word was both a weapon and a light, piercing hard hearts but also revealing God's truth. Scripture is our foundational guide and powerful tool for witness and conviction.

In witnessing, knowing, understanding, and applying the Bible is essential. Are you regularly immersed in God's Word? Stephen's example encourages us to study Scripture diligently and rely on it in our testimony.



## Reflect and Apply

1. How well do you know Scripture to share your faith effectively?

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2. In what ways has God's Word transformed your heart and mind?

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3. How can you deepen your engagement with the Bible daily?

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Day 12:  The Power of Scripture in Witness

## Journaling Prompts

1. List your favorite Scripture passages and why they inspire you.

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2. Write about a time Scripture guided your decisions or witness.

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3. Pray for a hunger and understanding of the Bible.

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Day 12:  The Power of Scripture in Witness

## Prayer for Today

**Father, open my heart to Your Word each day.** Teach me through Scripture so I may proclaim Your truth boldly and lovingly. May Your Word transform me and empower my witness. Thank You for this priceless gift. *In Jesus' name, Amen.*   





# Day 13: Christ, Seated at God's Right Hand



Day 13:  Christ, Seated at God's Right Hand

## Your Verse

*Acts 7:56 - "I see the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!"*

## Supporting Scriptures

- *Psalms 110:1 - "The Lord says to my lord: 'Sit at my right hand until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet.'"*
- *Romans 8:34 - "Christ Jesus who died — more than that, who was raised to life — is at the right hand of God."*



Day 13:  Christ, Seated at God's Right Hand

## Devotional: Christ's Exalted Victory

**Stephen's vision emphasizes Jesus' exalted position.** The Son of Man stands at God's right hand, a position of authority and honor, interceding for believers. This image disproves any notion of abandonment; Christ reigns supreme and advocates on our behalf.

Our hope rests in the risen Savior's power over all things. Such knowledge strengthens faith in adversity and encourages believers to persevere, knowing Christ is always present and victorious.





Day 13:  Christ, Seated at God's Right Hand

## Reflect and Apply

1. How does knowing Jesus reigns at God's right hand affect your faith?

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2. Where do you need His intercession in your life right now?

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3. How can this truth anchor you in moments of doubt or fear?

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Day 13:  Christ, Seated at God's Right Hand

## Journaling Prompts

1. Reflect on the significance of Jesus' exaltation in your spiritual walk.

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2. Write a prayer acknowledging His power and presence.

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3. List challenges where Jesus' intercession brings you comfort.

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Day 13:  Christ, Seated at God's Right Hand

## Prayer for Today

**Lord Jesus, You are exalted and reigning forever.** Help me to rest in Your authority and intercession. When I face trials, remind me that You stand for me and fight on my behalf. May I find peace in Your victory. *Amen.*   





# Day 14: The Holy Spirit's Presence in Suffering



Day 14:  The Holy Spirit's Presence in Suffering

## Your Verse

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

## Supporting Scriptures

- *Romans 8:18 - "I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us."*
- *2 Corinthians 1:3-4 - "The God of all comfort... comforts us in all our troubles..."*



Day 14:  The Holy Spirit's Presence in Suffering

## Devotional: Spirit's Comfort in Life's Trials

**Stephen's ability to face death with peace highlights the Holy Spirit's sustaining power.** Suffering can feel overwhelming, but God's Spirit comforts and empowers. The presence of the Spirit assures believers that pain is temporary and purpose-filled.

In your own trials, do you feel the Spirit's presence with you? Relying on Him transforms our perspective, giving hope amid pain. Stephen's testimony encourages us to welcome the Spirit fully and trust His comfort in all circumstances.



Day 14:  The Holy Spirit's Presence in Suffering

## Reflect and Apply

1. When facing hardship, how do you experience God's comfort?

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2. What role does the Holy Spirit play in sustaining your faith?

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3. How can you cultivate greater awareness of the Spirit daily?

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Day 14:  The Holy Spirit's Presence in Suffering

## Journaling Prompts

1. Write about a challenging time you felt God's comfort.

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2. Reflect on ways to welcome the Spirit more intentionally.

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3. Pray for heightened sensitivity to the Holy Spirit's guidance.

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Day 14: 🕊️ The Holy Spirit's Presence in Suffering

## Prayer for Today


**Holy Spirit, be my comfort and strength.** Help me to feel Your presence especially in difficult moments. Teach me to lean on You fully and trust Your perfect peace. Thank You for never leaving me alone. *In Jesus' name, Amen.*





## Day 15: Praying for Our Enemies



Day 15:  Praying for Our Enemies

## Your Verse

*Acts 7:60 – “Lord, do not hold this sin against them.”*

## Supporting Scriptures

- *Matthew 5:44 – “Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you.”*
- *Romans 12:14 – “Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse.”*



## Devotional: Transforming Love Through Prayer

**Stephen's prayer for his persecutors exemplifies Christlike love.** Forgiving and praying for enemies reflects the transforming nature of the gospel. It is not easy but it is essential to true discipleship.

Jesus calls us to break cycles of hate through prayer and love. Are you holding on to grudges or resentment? Stephen challenges us to release those bonds and pray for those who oppose us, releasing God's grace for both them and ourselves.



## Reflect and Apply

1. Who in your life could you begin to pray for with love instead of bitterness?

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2. What holds you back from forgiving others fully?

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3. How does praying for enemies change your heart?

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## Journaling Prompts

1. Write about someone you find hard to forgive and pray for them.

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2. Reflect on experiences where prayer has softened your heart.

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3. Ask God to help you forgive and love as He does.

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Day 15: 💬 Praying for Our Enemies

## Prayer for Today

**Lord, empower me to love and pray for my enemies.** Break down walls of anger and fill me with Your grace. May my heart mirror Your compassion and mercy. Thank You for teaching me forgiveness through Stephen's example.

*Amen.* ❤️🙏🙏





## Day 16: 💪 Courage in the Face of Death





## Your Verse

*Acts 7:54 – “When the members of the Sanhedrin heard this, they were furious...”*

## Supporting Scriptures

- *Joshua 1:9 – “Be strong and courageous... for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.”*
- *Philippians 1:20 – “I eagerly expect and hope that I will in no way be ashamed, but will have sufficient courage...”*



## Devotional: God's Gift: Courage to Stand Firm

**Stephen's courage in the face of fury and death offers incredible inspiration.** Despite threats and violence, he remained grounded in God's presence and mission. This courage is a gift from God for those who rely on Him.

Where does your courage come from? Stephen shows us that it flows from an unshakable trust in God's sovereignty and promises. He challenges us to fix our hearts on God rather than on mortal fear.



## Reflect and Apply

1. What fears keep you from standing boldly for your faith?

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2. How can you grow in courage through prayer and Scripture?

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3. What examples of courage in the Bible inspire you?

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# Journaling Prompts

1. Write about a moment you felt God gave you courage.

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2. Reflect on scriptures that encourage boldness in Christ.

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3. Pray for strength to face fears with faith rather than doubt.

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Day 16: 💪 Courage in the Face of Death

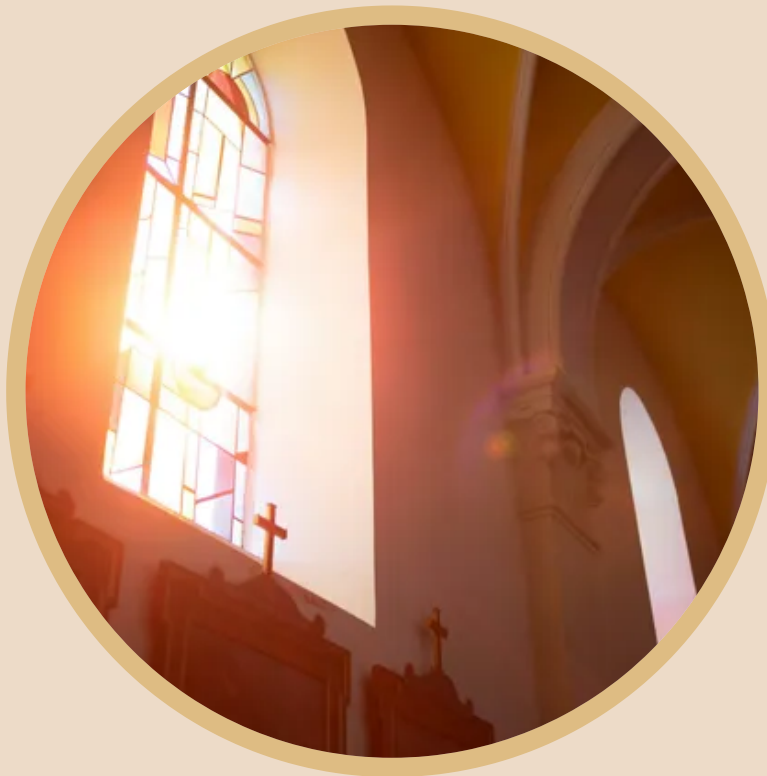
## Prayer for Today

**Father, grant me courage like Stephen's to face any trial.** Help me to trust You fully and not be shaken by threats or fear. May Your strength empower me to live boldly for You. *In Jesus' name, Amen.* 💪 🔥 🙏





# Day 17: The Early Church in Prayer and Unity



## Your Verse

*Acts 7:59-60 - “While they were stoning him, Stephen prayed...”*

## Supporting Scriptures

- *Acts 1:14 - “They all joined together constantly in prayer...”*
- *Psalms 133:1 - “How good and pleasant it is when God’s people live together in unity!”*



## Devotional: Praying Together: Strength in Community

**Stephen's steadfast prayer amidst persecution models the power of prayer and unity.** The early church was united in purpose and prayer, strengthening their witness and endurance. Prayer connects believers with God's heart and empowers us to face difficulties united.

Consider your role in your faith community. How do prayer and unity shape your spiritual life? Stephen's prayer life underscores the vital support that comes from a faithful community undergirded by prayer.





## Reflect and Apply

1. How does consistent prayer impact your faith and church community?

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2. In what ways can you contribute to unity and prayerfulness?

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3. What challenges to unity do you observe, and how can prayer help?

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# Journaling Prompts

1. Write about your experiences being part of a praying community.

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2. Reflect on how prayer has helped you through difficult times.

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3. Pray for your church and the unity of believers worldwide.

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Day 17: 👤 The Early Church in Prayer and Unity

## Prayer for Today

**Lord, knit Your people together in prayer and love.** Help me to be a faithful part of the body of Christ, encouraging and supporting others. May our unity reflect Your glory and bring revival. *In Jesus' name, Amen.* 🧡🙌🙏





## Day 18: Trusting God's Justice



## Your Verse

*Acts 7:52 - "Which of the prophets did your ancestors not persecute?"*

## Supporting Scriptures

- *Romans 12:19 - "Do not take revenge... leave room for God's wrath."*
- *Psalms 37:5 - "Commit your way to the Lord; trust in him and he will do this."*



## Devotional: Faith in God's Righteous Judgment

Stephen highlights a long history of God's messengers being persecuted but God's justice prevailing. We may face injustice and oppression, but God's righteous judgment is sure. Instead of seeking revenge, we are called to trust God as our defender and judge.

Are you struggling with injustice today? Stephen's example encourages faith in God's perfect justice rather than human retaliation. Committing our circumstances to Him brings peace even amid unfair treatment.



## Reflect and Apply

1. Where do you need to surrender control and trust God's justice?

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2. How can you resist the urge for personal revenge spiritually?

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3. What promises of God's justice give you hope?

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## Journaling Prompts

1. Write about a situation where you learned to trust God over retaliation.

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2. Reflect on how God's justice differs from human justice.

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3. Pray for the ability to leave vengeance in God's hands.

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Day 18: 🛡️ Trusting God's Justice

## Prayer for Today

**God, You are just and faithful.** Help me to trust Your perfect judgment and to release all desire for revenge. Teach me to walk in peace and leave all things in Your hands. May Your justice prevail. *Amen.* ⚖️ 🙏 🕊️





## Day 19: 🌈 Hope Beyond Martyrdom



Day 19: 🌈 Hope Beyond Martyrdom

## Your Verse

*Revelation 7:9 – “After this I looked, and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count...”*

## Supporting Scriptures

- *John 16:33 – “In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.”*
- *2 Corinthians 4:17 – “Our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory...”*



Day 19: 🌈 Hope Beyond Martyrdom

## Devotional: Eternal Hope in Christ

**Stephen's martyrdom is a foretaste of the eternal reward awaiting faithful believers.** The vision in Revelation recalls those who have endured suffering for the gospel and now rejoice in heaven. This hope gives purpose to our trials and assurance that faithfulness will not be in vain.

Remember that suffering is temporary and glory awaits. Let Stephen's example inspire peace and joy despite earthly loss, as we fix our eyes on eternal promises.



## Reflect and Apply

1. How does the hope of heaven shape your view on suffering?

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2. What helps you maintain joy and peace when faced with hardship?

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3. How can you encourage others with this hope?

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Day 19:  Hope Beyond Martyrdom

## Journaling Prompts

1. Write about how God's promises bring comfort amidst trials.

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2. Reflect on the joy of eternal life promised in Scripture.

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3. Pray for steadfast hope and faith in all circumstances.

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Day 19: 🌈 Hope Beyond Martyrdom

## Prayer for Today

**Lord, thank You for the hope of eternal life.** Help me to endure trials with joy, knowing You have overcome the world. Strengthen my faith and fill me with peace as I look forward to Your glorious kingdom. *Amen.* ✨ 🙏 📖





## Day 20: Growing Through Trials





## Your Verse

*James 1:2-3 - “Consider it pure joy... whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance.”*

## Supporting Scriptures

- *Romans 5:3-4 - “Suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope.”*
- *1 Peter 1:6-7 - “Though now for a little while you may have had to suffer... your faith... may be proved genuine.”*



Day 20: 🌱 Growing Through Trials

## Devotional: Joyful Perseverance in Trials

**Stephen's story reminds us that trials refine our faith.** Rather than causing despair, hardships produce endurance, character, and hope. This refining process is a vital part of spiritual growth.

Embracing trials as opportunities to grow rather than obstacles leads to maturity and deeper dependence on God. How do you respond to challenges? Stephen's example encourages a joyful perseverance, trusting God's plan to mature our faith.



## Reflect and Apply

1. How have trials in your life strengthened your faith?

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2. In what ways can you adopt joy even in difficulties?

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3. What growth do you sense God working in your current challenges?

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# Journaling Prompts

1. Write about a trial that produced growth in your character.

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2. Reflect on scriptures that encourage perseverance.

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3. Pray for joy and strength to endure present hardships.

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Day 20: 🌱 Growing Through Trials

## Prayer for Today

**Father, teach me to find joy in trials.** Help me to see challenges as opportunities to grow and deepen my faith. Strengthen my perseverance and increase my hope in You. Thank You for refining me like gold. *In Jesus' name, Amen.* 🌿💪🙏





## Day 21: 🚩 Living a Legacy of Faith



Day 21: 🚩 Living a Legacy of Faith

## Your Verse

*2 Timothy 4:6-8 - “I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.”*

## Supporting Scriptures

- *Hebrews 12:1 - “Let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us.”*
- *Philippians 3:14 - “I press on toward the goal to win the prize...”*



## Devotional: Finish Strong: Leaving a Faith Legacy

**Stephen's life culminates as a legacy of faith for future generations.** He remained faithful to the end, setting an example for all believers. His story challenges us to consider the legacy we are building through our own faithfulness and witness.

How will your life reflect God's glory? Will you persist in faith despite obstacles, knowing your steadfastness encourages others? Step forward today to live with intentional faithfulness, inspired by Stephen's enduring example as the heaven opened before him.





## Reflect and Apply

1. What legacy of faith do you want to leave behind?

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2. How can you remain faithful through challenges to inspire others?

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3. What steps will you take to strengthen your spiritual journey?

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# Journaling Prompts

1. Write about your spiritual goals and legacy hopes.

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2. Reflect on ways to deepen your faith commitment.

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3. Pray for strength and perseverance to finish your race well.

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Day 21: 🏴 Living a Legacy of Faith

## Prayer for Today

**Lord, help me to finish my race with faith and courage.** May my life inspire others to know and love You. Strengthen me to remain faithful in every season and to leave a legacy that honors You. Thank You for guiding me every step. *Amen.* 🏴 ✨ 🙏





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