

# PRAY HARD PRAYERS

## Pray Hard Prayers: The Prayer for Enemies - Acts 7:54–60

Acts 7:60 “And falling to his knees he cried out with a loud voice, ‘Lord, do not hold this sin against them.’ And when he had said this, he fell asleep.

1. Acts 7:54–58 — Stephen is not facing minor criticism but violent injustice. How does recognizing the seriousness of this situation deepen the impact of his prayer for his enemies?
2. Romans 12:19–21 — Scripture tells believers not to take revenge but to leave justice to God. Why is entrusting justice to God essential when we have been wronged?
3. Acts 7:55–56 — Stephen fixes his gaze on Jesus while being attacked. How does focusing on Christ rather than the offense change our ability to forgive?
4. Luke 23:34 — Stephen’s prayer echoes Jesus’ words from the cross. What does this teach us about how Christ shapes the way His followers respond to hostility?
5. 1 Peter 2:23 — Jesus entrusted Himself to the One who judges justly. What does it look like in practice to release judgment into God’s hands instead of carrying it yourself?
6. Acts 8:1 — Saul witnesses Stephen’s death and later becomes Paul the apostle. How might praying for our enemies participate in God’s future work in their lives?
7. Who in your life is hardest to pray for right now? What would it look like this week to begin releasing that person and the desire for revenge into God’s hands?

