



**UNDER
PRESSURE**

TO FULLY

LIVE FOR JESUS,

YOU MUST FIRST

DIE TO YOURSELF.



ACTS 7:51-60

“You stubborn people! You are heathen at heart and deaf to the truth. Must you forever resist the Holy Spirit? That’s what your ancestors did, and so do you! 52 Name one prophet your ancestors didn’t persecute! They even killed the ones who predicted the coming of the Righteous One —the Messiah whom you betrayed and murdered.



ACTS 7:51-60

53 You deliberately disobeyed God's law, even though you received it from the hands of angels." 54 The Jewish leaders were infuriated by Stephen's accusation, and they shook their fists at him in rage. 55 But Stephen, full of the Holy Spirit, gazed steadily into heaven and saw the glory of God, and he saw Jesus standing in the place of honor at God's right hand.



ACTS 7:51-60

56 And he told them, “Look, I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing in the place of honor at God’s right hand!” 57 Then they put their hands over their ears and began shouting. They rushed at him 58 and dragged him out of the city and began to stone him. His accusers took off their coats and laid them at the feet of a young man named Saul.



ACTS 7:51-60

59 As they stoned him, Stephen prayed, “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.” 60 He fell to his knees, shouting, “Lord, don’t charge them with this sin!” And with that, he died.



ACTS 8:1-3

Saul was one of the witnesses, and he agreed completely with the killing of Stephen. A great wave of persecution began that day, sweeping over the church in Jerusalem; and all the believers except the apostles were scattered through the regions of Judea and Samaria.



ACTS 8:1-3

2 (Some devout men came and buried Stephen with great mourning.) 3 But Saul was going everywhere to destroy the church. He went from house to house, dragging out both men and women to throw them into prison.



SIMILARITY	STEPHEN	JESUS
1.False witnesses accused them	Acts 6:11-13	Matt. 26:59-61
2.Brought before the religious council	Acts 6:12-15	Matt. 26:57-59
3.Accused of speaking against the Temple	Acts 6:13	Matt. 26:61
4.Accused regarding the Law of Moses	Acts 6:13-14	John 19:7
5.Faced an angry mob/council	Acts 7:54	Luke 22:63-71

SIMILARITY	STEPHEN	JESUS
6. Publicly declared the Son of Man	Acts 7:56	Matt. 26:64
7. Killed outside the city	Acts 7:58	John 19:17
8. Committed their spirits to God	Acts 7:59	Luke 23:46
9. Prayed for forgiveness for their offenders	Acts 7:60	Luke 23:34
10. Deaths impacted future growth	Acts 8:1-4	Matt.28:18-20 / Acts 1:8

ACTS 7:52

“...**THE MESSIAH** WHOM
YOU BETRAYED AND
MURDERED.”

ARE YOU READY TO
BE **BOLD**?



ACTS 7:54

“... THEY SHOOK THEIR FISTS AT HIM IN RAGE.”

ACTS 7:57

“THEN THEY PUT THEIR HANDS OVER THEIR EARS AND BEGAN SHOUTING...”

ACTS 7:55

But Stephen, full of the Holy Spirit, gazed steadily into heaven and saw the glory of God, and he saw Jesus standing in the place of honor at God's right hand.



RESPOND TO SEASONS OF
IMMENSE PRESSURE
LIKE STEPHEN DID



COLOSSIANS 3:1-4

Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. 2 Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. 3 For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. 4 When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.



**MAN CAN KILL
YOUR BODY,
BUT IN CHRIST
NO ONE CAN TAKE
YOUR LIFE.**

1. SET YOUR **HEARTS** ON
THINGS ABOVE

2. SET YOUR **MINDS** ON
THINGS ABOVE



COLOSSIANS 3:1

“... WHERE CHRIST IS, **SEATED** AT THE RIGHT HAND OF GOD.”

ACTS 7:55

“...HE SAW JESUS **STANDING** IN THE PLACE OF HONOR AT GOD’S RIGHT HAND.”

ACTS 7:59-60

59 As they stoned him, Stephen prayed, “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.” 60 He fell to his knees, shouting, “Lord, don’t charge them with this sin!” And with that, he died.



***“WE ARE NOT FOLLOWING
JESUS TO GET SOMETHING
FROM HIM, BUT TO KNOW HIM
AND BECOME LIKE HIM.”***

-DAN MOHLER

STEPHEN WAS ABLE TO

DIE FOR JESUS

BECAUSE HE HAD ALREADY

DIED TO HIMSELF.



ACTS 8:1

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



ACTS 8:1

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

ACTS 1:8

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all **Judea** and **Samaria**, and to the ends of the earth.”

TO FULLY

LIVE FOR JESUS,

YOU MUST FIRST

DIE TO YOURSELF.

