



A REVIVED LIFE - May 20

Acts 7:54–60 (ESV) 54 Now when they heard these things they were enraged, and they ground their teeth at him. 55 But he, full of the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. 56 And he said, “Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God.” 57 But they cried out with a loud voice and stopped their ears and rushed together at him. 58 Then they cast him out of the city and stoned him. And the witnesses laid down their garments at the feet of a young man named Saul. 59 And as they were stoning Stephen, he called out, “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.” 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.

Read & Examine – What does this passage reveal about who God is? About what God has done? What do those answers say about who you are?

Apply – In light of what the passage revealed about God, his work, and our identity, consider how he wants to *transform your heart* and to *move you to action*.

- Christ-like compassion and tenderness came out of Stephen in his most intense trial (v.60); what comes out of you most often in situations of pressure?
- How might you respond to your difficulties & trials if you were more consciously aware of the presence and activity of all three persons of God for your good? (v.56)
- Since we cannot simply muster responses of tenderness on our own (nor did Stephen), how can you make yourself more vulnerable to God’s ‘tenderizing’ influence on your heart?
- The Spirit revived Stephen by granting him a timely and weighty view of God’s glory (v.55). Where could you ask the Spirit to make God’s glory weightier to you than your circumstances? Where could you ‘put the Spirit to the test’?
- God providentially used Stephen’s martyrdom to propel the gospel out from Jerusalem to the world. Imagine together how God might spread blessing to others if you and your community laid hold of the supernatural resources in Christ to absorb offense and extend forgiveness.
- Is there something you need to turn from, to believe, or to do in response to this Word?

Pray – Begin responding to God’s Word by praying. Spend time honestly confessing your hearts to him. Request his forgiveness through Christ where needed. Petition him for his merciful and gracious help. Intercede for one another and those not yet part of your community.