

Keep Looking Up

Acts 6:8 - 7:60

Sunday, February 11, 2018

What we learn from the first Christian martyr

1. May there be more grace and **POWER**, less doubt and **WEAKNESS** in me. (*Matthew 25:23; James 4:6; 2 Corinthians 9:8; 1 Timothy 1:12; 2 Timothy 1:7; John 14:12*)
2. Some will malign, misrepresent, label, and lie to manipulate others **AGAINST** us. (*Matthew 5:10-12; John 15:18-21*)
3. **COMMUNION** with God when the cares are light yields sincere, fearless, calm **CONFIDENCE** when the burdens are heavy. (*Luke 1:12, 2:9; 1 Corinthians 1:9; Revelation 3:20; John 14:23; 1 John 1:5-10*)
4. When the **THREAT** is high, **RESIST** the fear that tempts us to be silent.
5. We must **YIELD** to God in our hearts and not **RESIST** the Holy Spirit. (*Exodus 32:9, 33:3, 34:9; Deuteronomy 9:6, 13; 10:16; Leviticus 26:41; Jeremiah 9:26; Isaiah 63:10; Ephesians 4:30; 1 Thessalonians 5:19*)
6. When the giants loom large, fix our **EYES** on **JESUS**. (*2 Kings 6:15-17; 1 John 4:4; Matthew 26:64; Colossians 3:1; Romans 8:31-39*)
7. Be ready for **DEATH** by living day by day in God's **GRACE**. (*Leviticus 24:14; Deuteronomy 17:17; Luke 23:46; Ephesians 4:32; Colossians 3:13; Matthew 6:14-15; Mark 8:36; 2 Corinthians 6:2*)



*Taking it further to help you **THRIVE...***

1. What are some characteristics we discover about Stephen, the first martyr? Which of these do you need more of in your life?
2. What does it mean to yield to God?
3. When watching someone go through extremely difficult circumstances, we may think, "I just don't know how they can do it." Describe a time when you experienced God's grace for the moment. How did this change your perspective of living in God's grace?
4. The great preacher Charles Spurgeon said, "Satisfaction with results will be the [death] knell of progress. No man is good who thinks that he cannot be better." Often in our walks with Jesus we can grow stagnant or too 'comfortable'. What areas of growth or change might God currently be leading you to make in your journey with Him?
5. When is it most difficult for you to keep your eyes on Jesus?

