

# Acts 7:59

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And they stoned Stephen, calling upon God, and saying, Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.

## Analysis

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Stephen's prayer 'Lord Jesus, receive my spirit' demonstrates faith in Jesus' deity and power to receive departing souls—a prerogative belonging to God alone. This echoes Jesus' words on the cross ('Father, into thy hands,' Luke 23:46), showing Stephen's Christlike response to death. His calm commitment reveals assured hope of resurrection.

## Historical Context

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As Christianity's first martyr faced stoning outside Jerusalem's walls, Stephen consciously followed Christ's example in death. His prayer to Jesus (not the Father) affirms the early church's worship of Christ as divine.

## Related Passages

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**1 Corinthians 13:4** — Characteristics of love

**John 15:13** — Greatest form of love

## Study Questions

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1. What does Stephen's prayer teach about Jesus' role in believers' death and afterlife?
2. How can Christians develop similar confidence and calm when facing death?

## Interlinear Text

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καὶ ἐλιθοβόλουν τὸν Στέφανον ἐπικαλούμενον καὶ

And they stoned

G3588

Stephen

G2532

calling upon

And

G1941

G2532

λέγοντα Κύριε Ἰησοῦ δέξαι τὸ πνεῦμά μου

saying

Lord

Jesus

receive

G3588

spirit

my

G3004

G2962

G2424

G1209

G4151

G3450

## Additional Cross-References

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**Luke 23:46** (Spirit): And when Jesus had cried with a loud voice, he said, Father, into thy hands I commend my spirit: and having said thus, he gave up the ghost.

**Psalms 31:5** (Spirit): Into thine hand I commit my spirit: thou hast redeemed me, O LORD God of truth.

**Acts 22:16** (References Lord): And now why tarriest thou? arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord.

**Acts 2:21** (References Lord): And it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved.

**Acts 9:14** (Parallel theme): And here he hath authority from the chief priests to bind all that call on thy name.

**1 Corinthians 1:2** (References Jesus): Unto the church of God which is at Corinth, to them that are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, with all that in every place call upon the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, both their's and our's:

**Joel 2:32** (References Lord): And it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call on the name of the LORD shall be delivered: for in mount Zion and in Jerusalem shall be deliverance, as the LORD hath said, and in the remnant whom the LORD shall call.