

Acts 7:59

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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

Analysis

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

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

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Study Questions

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

καὶ	ἐλιθοβόλουν	τὸν	Στέφανον	ἐπικαλούμενον	καὶ
And	they stoned	G3588	Stephen	calling upon	And
G2532	G3036		G4736	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

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.