



18 STEPHEN - MAKING JESUS MY RIDE OR DIE!

1. _____ IN JESUS.

Stephen ...was a man full of faith and the Holy Spirit... **Acts 6:5 GW**

The person who is right with me will live by trusting in me. But I will not be pleased with the one who turns back in fear." ³⁹But we are not those who turn back and are lost. No, we are the people who have faith and are saved. **Hebrews 10:38, 39 ERV**

- _____ the scriptures.

Listen, and I will teach you what the wise have said. Study their teachings, ¹⁸ and you will be glad if you remember them and can quote them. ¹⁹ I want you to put your trust in the LORD; that is why I am going to tell them to you now. **Proverbs 22:17-19 GNB**

- _____ on strong believers.

You have been a good student. You have closely observed how I have lived. You've followed my instructions, my habits, my purpose, my faith, my patience. You've watched how I love and have seen how I endure. You have been with me ¹¹ through persecutions... **2 Timothy 3:10 VOICE**

- _____ and _____.

Anyone who chooses to do the will of God will find out whether my teaching comes from God or whether I speak on my own. **John 7:17 NIV**

2. _____ LIKE JESUS.

Now Stephen, a man full of God's grace and power, performed great wonders and signs among the people. ⁹ Opposition arose, however, from members of the Synagogue of the Freedmen Jews of Cyrene and Alexandria as well as the provinces of Cilicia and Asia--who began to argue with Stephen. ¹⁰ But they could not stand up against the wisdom

the Spirit gave him as he spoke. ¹¹ Then they secretly persuaded some men to say, "We have heard Stephen speak blasphemous words against Moses and against God." ¹² So they stirred up the people and the elders and the teachers of the law. They seized Stephen and brought him before the Sanhedrin. **Acts 6:8-12 NIV**

I've told you this so that my peace will be with you. In the world you'll have trouble. But cheer up! I have overcome the world. **John 16:33 GW**

My friends, do not be surprised at the painful things you are now suffering. These things are testing your faith. So do not think that something strange is happening to you. **1 Peter 4:12 ICB**

In fact, everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted, ¹³ while evildoers and impostors will go from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived. **2 Timothy 3:12, 13 NIV**

3. _____ ON JESUS.

Stephen, full of the Holy Spirit, looked to heaven and saw God's glory and Jesus standing at the right side of God. ⁵⁶ "Look!" he said. "I see heaven opened and the Son of Man standing at the right side of God!" **Acts 7:55, 56 GNB**

Three comforting things that Stephen saw:

- He saw his _____ - "I see heaven opened..."
- He saw _____ - "I see ...the Son of Man standing..."
- He saw _____ - "I see... Jesus at the right side of God."

Now stay focused on Jesus, who designed and perfected our faith. He endured the cross and ignored the shame of that death because He focused on the joy that was set before Him; and now He is seated beside God on the throne, a place of honor ³ Consider the life of the One who endured such personal attacks and hostility from sinners so that you will not grow weary or lose heart. **Hebrews 12:2-3 VOICE**

4. RIDE OR DIE, I _____.

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. 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 7:57-60 NLT**