

*The Jewish leaders were infuriated by Stephen's accusation, and they shook their fists in rage. But Stephen, full of the Holy Spirit, gazed steadily upward into heaven and saw the glory of God, and he saw Jesus standing in the place of honor at God's right hand. And he told them, "Look, I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing in the place of honor at God's right hand!" Then they put their hands over their ears, and drowning out his voice with their shouts, they rushed at him. They dragged him out of the city and began to stone him. The official witnesses took off their coats and laid them at the feet of a young man named Saul. And as they stoned him, Stephen prayed, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." And he fell to his knees, shouting, "Lord, don't charge them with this sin!" And with that, he died. **Acts 7:54–60 (NLT)***

*Saul was one of the official witnesses at the killing of Stephen. A great wave of persecution began that day, sweeping over the church in Jerusalem, and all the believers except the apostles fled into Judea and Samaria. (Some godly men came and buried Stephen with loud weeping.) **Acts 8:1-2 (NLT)***

### Learning from the death of a Spirit filled man

1. Spirit-filled people can find \_\_\_\_\_ when others are in \_\_\_\_\_

- Our \_\_\_\_\_ is often dependent on our \_\_\_\_\_

2. Spirit-filled people can \_\_\_\_\_ that others can't \_\_\_\_\_

3. Spirit-filled people see \_\_\_\_\_ differently than others do

- **Truth about death**

- Death is an \_\_\_\_\_

*For Christ must reign until he humbles all his enemies beneath his feet. And the last enemy to be destroyed is death.*

**1 Corinthians 15:25-26 (NLT)**

- Death is a \_\_\_\_\_ enemy

*... "Death is swallowed up in victory. O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?" For sin is the sting that results in death, and the law gives sin its power. How we thank God, who gives us victory over sin and death through Jesus Christ our Lord!*

**1 Corinthians 15:54-57 (NLT)**

*Can anything ever separate us from Christ's love? Does it mean he no longer loves us if we have trouble or calamity, or are persecuted, or are hungry or cold or in danger or threatened with death? ... No, despite all these things, overwhelming victory is ours through Christ, who loved us. And I am convinced that nothing can ever separate us from his love. Death can't, and life can't. The angels can't, and the demons can't. Our fears for today, our worries about tomorrow, and even the powers of hell can't keep God's love away... nothing in all creation will ever be able to separate us from the love of God that is revealed in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

**Romans 8:35-38 (NLT)**

*... "No eye has seen, no ear has heard, and no mind has imagined what God has prepared for those who love him." **1 Corinthians 2:9 (NLT)***

- Dietrich Bonhoeffer – "When Christ calls a man, he bids him to come and die"