



The LAW of

THE HARVEST

The Seed of Martyrs

# Introduction:

God's Church has been built upon a heritage of faith unto death. The first Christian martyr was a man named Stephen.

**Text: John 12:24-28a**

**I tell you the truth, unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed.**

**But if it dies, it produces many seeds.**

**The man who loves his life will lose it, while the man who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life.**

**Whoever serves me must follow me;  
and where I am, my servant also will  
be.**

**My Father will honor the one who  
serves me.**

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**“Now my heart is troubled, and what shall I say?**

**‘Father, save me from this hour’?**

**No, it was for this very reason I came to this hour. Father, glorify your name!”**

John 12:24-28a

**Text: Acts 6:8-15**

**Now Stephen, a man full of God's grace and power, did great wonders and miraculous signs among the people.**

**Opposition arose, however, from members of the Synagogue of the Freedmen (as it was called) –**

**Jews of Cyrene and Alexandria as well as the provinces of Cilicia and Asia.**

**These men began to argue with Stephen, but they could not stand up against his wisdom or the Spirit by whom he spoke.**

**Then they secretly persuaded some men to say, "We have heard Stephen speak words of blasphemy against Moses and against God."**

**So they stirred up the people and the elders and the teachers of the law.**

**They seized Stephen and brought him before the Sanhedrin.**

**They produced false witnesses, who testified, "This fellow never stops speaking against this holy place and against the law.**

**For we have heard him say that this Jesus of Nazareth will destroy this place and change the customs Moses handed down to us."**

**All who were sitting in the Sanhedrin looked intently at Stephen, and they saw that his face was like the face of an angel.**

Acts 6:8-15

**And Saul was there, giving approval to his death.**

Acts 8:1

Stephen's experience proves that:

**GENUINE** Christianity is a real threat to those who **OPPOSE** it.

Martyrdom is rooted in

**ABSOLUTE INTEGRITY.**

Stephen's experience proves that:

God has great **GRACE** for those  
who **SUFFER** for Jesus.

God can be **TRUSTED** to know  
how best to **INVEST** our lives.

Christian leaders need powerful prayer support because the more a person has entrusted to them by God:

The more God will **REQUIRE** of them.

The more Satan will **OPPOSE** them.

Christian leaders need powerful prayer support because the more a person has entrusted to them by God:

The more likely it is that they will be required to suffer on behalf of

**OTHERS.**

Christian leaders need powerful prayer support because the more a person has entrusted to them by God:

The fewer people will truly **UNDERSTAND** their situation.

Christian leaders need powerful prayer support because the more a person has entrusted to them by God:

The fewer people will be able to **PROVIDE COMFORT** to them.

Christian leaders need powerful prayer support because the more a person has entrusted to them by God:

The more they will need to learn to **RECEIVE COMFORT** directly from God.

# **Conclusion:**

When we put our lives in God's hands,  
He will multiply their significance.



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