

IGNITE

A STUDY OF THE BOOK OF ACTS

Martyr: I Die Daily!

Sunday, May 28, 2023

Acts 7:54 - 8:4

One of my favorite quotes comes from a martyred missionary, Jim Elliott. He said, “He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain that which he cannot lose.” January 8, 1956 was a day that influenced many non-believers and believers. On that day, Jim Elliott alongside Ed McCully, Roger Youderian, Pete Fleming, and their pilot, Nate Saint, died on a sandy river bank in the jungles of Ecuador. They had given their lives to bring the gospel to unreached peoples who had never heard of Jesus Christ. In life and in death, they influenced untold numbers of people.

As we study Acts, we now read about the first martyr of the church, Stephen. Stephen made an impact in life and in death because he loved Jesus more than anything in this world!

The dictionary defines a martyr as “a person who is killed because of his religious or other beliefs.” Interestingly enough, the English word martyr is really a word transliterated from the original Greek *martur*, which simply means “witness.” The reason why this word became synonymous with dying for one’s religious beliefs is that the early Christian witnesses were often persecuted and/or killed for their witness.

KEY THOUGHT

You will have an eternal impact when you love Jesus more than anything in this world.

- **Experience the power of the Gospel** (2 Corinthians 5:17)
- **Love Jesus more than anything in this world!** (Matthew 22:37; Matthew 10:37)
- **A Spirit filled life** (Acts 6:3, 8,10; 7:55)

πλήρης plērēs; from a der. of πλήθω plēthō (to be full); full:—abounding(1), covered(1), filled(1), full(12), mature(1).[1]

To filled with the Spirit, you must be empty of self. Requires two things: Faith and forsaking self.

[1] Thomas, R. L. (1998). New American Standard Hebrew-Aramaic and Greek dictionaries: Updated edition. Anaheim: Foundation Publications, Inc.

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- **Die daily** (Acts 7:55-56; 1 Corinthians 15:31; Luke 9:23; Colossians. 3:2; Matthew 6:33; Proverbs 4:25; Romans 8:5; Mathew. 6:24; Philippians 4:8)

Conclusion:

The Christian life is a paradox. You must be the last to be first. You must give to receive. You must be the least to be the greatest. You must die to live (Galatians 2:20). Stephen died long before he was stoned to death, he died daily!

Resource: How Can I Love Christ More?

<https://www.gty.org/library/questions/QA170/how-can-i-love-christ-more>

Scan to
view this
resource!

