

AFTER CHURCH DEVO

BY REBUILD

Topic: Standing Firm in the Truth

Opening Prayer:

"The Lord is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer, my God, my rock, in whom I take refuge." — Psalm 18:2

Father, You are our refuge and strength. Give us the courage to stand firm in Your truth, even when it costs us. Fill us with the boldness and wisdom of Your Spirit, that we may live for You without fear. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Read: Acts 7:1-60

What does it mean to stand firm in the truth, even when facing opposition? In Acts 7, we see Stephen, a man "full of grace and power" (Acts 6:8), standing before the Sanhedrin after being falsely accused of blasphemy. Instead of defending himself, he boldly delivers a powerful sermon, tracing God's faithfulness through Israel's history and pointing to Jesus as the fulfillment of God's promises.

Stephen's speech wasn't just a history lesson—it was a confrontation. He accused the religious leaders of resisting the Holy Spirit, just as their ancestors had rejected God's prophets. His words cut deep, but rather than repenting, they became furious. In their rage, they dragged him out and stoned him to death.

Yet, in his final moments, Stephen's response was astonishing. He looked up and saw "the heavens opened, and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God" (Acts 7:56). Instead of cursing his killers, he echoed Jesus' words from the cross: "Lord, do not hold this sin against them" (Acts 7:60).

Stephen's faithfulness challenges us. He was not a preacher or apostle—he was a servant, chosen to help distribute food (Acts 6:5). Yet, because he was filled with the Holy Spirit, he spoke with wisdom and boldness. His courage came not from his own strength but from his deep trust in God.

Like Stephen, we may face opposition when we stand for Christ. It may not be physical persecution, but it could be rejection, criticism, or loss of opportunities. In those moments, will we shrink back, or will we stand firm, knowing that Jesus is with us? Stephen's vision of Jesus standing—rather than sitting—at God's right hand is a reminder that Christ is actively interceding for His faithful servants.

Conclusion:

Standing for truth comes at a cost, but God's presence sustains us. Stephen's story reminds us that even in suffering, we are never alone. Jesus sees, He strengthens, and He welcomes those who remain faithful to Him.

Discussion Questions:

For Students:

1. Have you ever felt pressured to stay silent about your faith? What did you do?
2. How can you trust God when people don't accept the truth?
3. What do you learn from Stephen's response to his enemies?

For Parents:

1. How can you teach your children to stand firm in their faith?
2. What fears do you have about standing for Christ, and how can you overcome them?
3. How does Stephen's story challenge your perspective on suffering for the gospel?

For Professionals:

1. What challenges do you face in being open about your faith at work?
2. How can you remain bold yet gracious when sharing the truth?
3. How does knowing Jesus is interceding for you give you confidence?

This week, pray for boldness to stand for Christ in a situation where you might feel pressure to compromise. Trust that Jesus sees you, strengthens you, and is with you every step of the way.