

The background of the slide features a white dove with its wings spread, set against a backdrop of intense orange and yellow flames. The dove is positioned in the center-right of the frame, facing left. The flames are most prominent on the right side, creating a dramatic contrast with the white bird. The overall composition suggests the Holy Spirit and the fire of the Holy Spirit.

ACTS

Stephen
*The Faithful
Martyr*

Acts 7:54 – 8:4

OF THE

Holy Spirit



The Story of Stephen

A Faithful Servant, Witness, and Martyr

*A man of good repute, full of Spirit and wisdom,
full of God's grace and power.*

- **His Hand** – A Faithful Servant
- **His Heart** – A Faithful Witness
- **His Eyes** – A Faithful Martyr

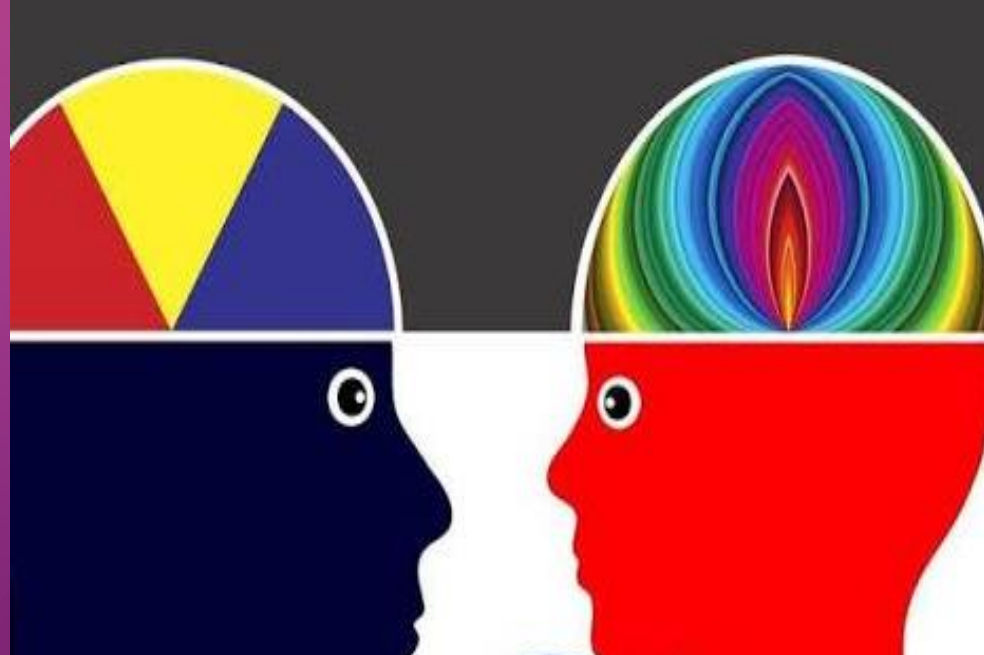
Vision/Paradigm

***How you see
things matter!***

Matthew 6:22

*'The eye is the lamp of the body. If
your eyes are healthy, your whole
body will be full of light.'*

**Where you set your
eyes upon matter!**





Stephen the Faithful Martyr

Stephen's life and ministry seem like failure,
Yet heaven tells a different story.

Theme: *The grace of Christ enables believers to remain faithful even in suffering and death when their eyes are fixed on the risen Christ and things above.*

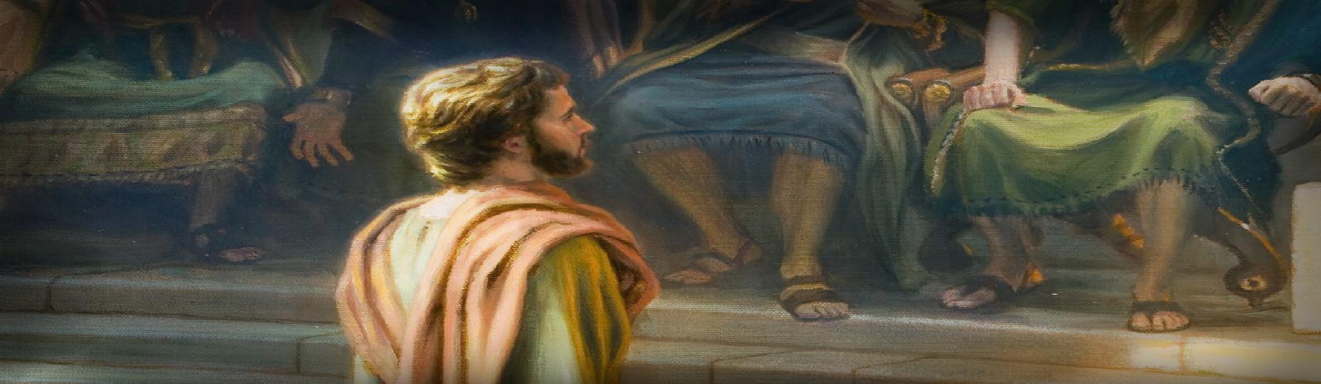
God uses faithful believers, even through suffering and death, to advance His kingdom in ways they could never imagine.



Acts 7:54-8:4 Stephen the Faithful Martyr

⁵⁴ When the members of the Sanhedrin heard this, they were furious and gnashed their teeth at him.

⁵⁵ But Stephen, full of the Holy Spirit, looked up to heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. ⁵⁶ 'Look,' he said, 'I see heaven open and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God.' ⁵⁷ At this they covered their ears and, yelling at the top of their voices, they all rushed at him, ⁵⁸ dragged him out of the city and began to stone him. Meanwhile, the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul.



⁵⁹ While they were stoning him, Stephen prayed, ‘Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.’ ⁶⁰ Then he fell on his knees and cried out, ‘Lord, do not hold this sin against them.’ When he had said this, he fell asleep. And Saul approved of their killing him.

On that day a great persecution broke out against the church in Jerusalem, and all except the apostles were scattered throughout Judea and Samaria. ² Godly men buried Stephen and mourned deeply for him. ³ But Saul began to destroy the church. Going from house to house, he dragged off both men and women and put them in prison. ⁴ Those who had been scattered preached the word wherever they went.

Acts 7:54-8:4
Stephen
the Faithful Martyr

- 1. Face His Opposition Boldly**
- 2. Fix His Eyes on Jesus**
- 3. Faithfully Displays
the Glory of Christ**





1. Face His Opposition Boldly

⁵⁴ When the members of the Sanhedrin heard this, they were furious and gnashed their teeth at him.

⁵⁵ But Stephen, full of the Holy Spirit, looked up to heaven...

They were convicted, enraged, refused repentance, and opposed him fiercely

Two contrasting visions

**The Sanhedrin looked down at Stephen with hatred
Stephen looked up toward heaven with confidence**

2. Fix His Eyes on Jesus

and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God.

Jesus Standing

- **Welcome & Acknowledge**
His faithful servant
- As Stephen's **Advocate**

**What Stephen saw
changed everything!**



3. Faithfully Displays the Glory of Christ

⁵⁹ While they were stoning him, Stephen prayed, 'Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.'

⁶⁰ Then he fell on his knees and cried out, 'Lord, do not hold this sin against them.' When he had said this, he fell asleep.

**Stephen reflecting
Christ in the face of death
Death has lost its sting!**

Like Jesus' prayer on the cross.

His heart was full of love for them!



The Seed That Changed History

*“And Saul approved
of their killing him.”*

**God often works
through seeds we
never see growing**

*Paul himself later
testified to this in Acts 22:20*





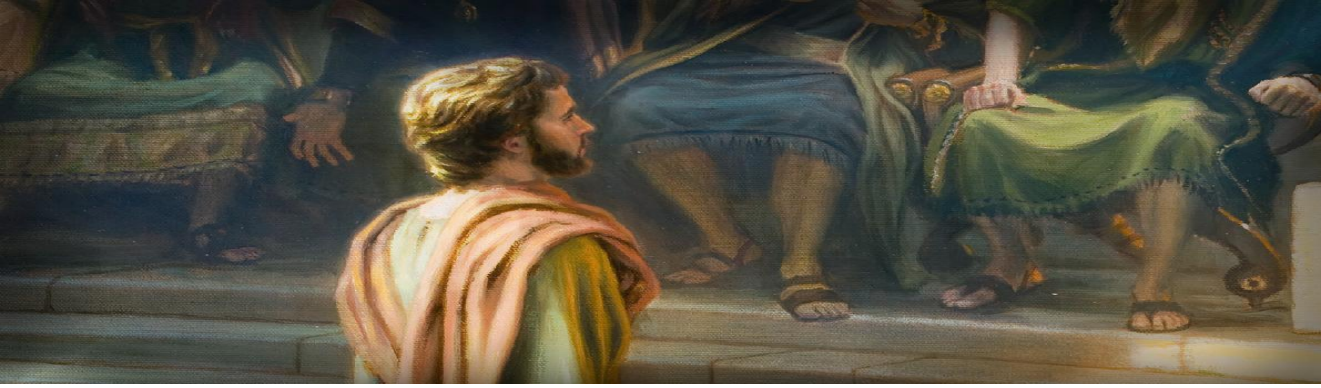
God Uses the Death of His Servants to Advance His Mission

On that day a great persecution broke out against the church in Jerusalem, and all except the apostles were scattered throughout Judea and Samaria...⁴ Those who had been scattered preached the word wherever they went.

Persecution became God's missionary strategy

Persecution became Propagation

Not Defeat but Divine Advancement of Acts 1:8



Spiritual Lessons of Stephen's Martyrdom

1. Faithfulness is more important than visible success.

God rewards obedience, not popularity.

2. Faith rises in us when we fix our eyes on Jesus.

Stephen's endurance comes from his focused vision on Christ.

3. God uses suffering to accomplish greater purposes.

Stephen died. The church scattered. The Gospel exploded.

4. One faithful life can influence generations.



**Spiritual Truth: God measures
faithfulness more than apparent success**

Stephen never planted a church. He never wrote a book. He never completed a missionary journey.

But through his death God launched one of the greatest missionary movements in history.

The power of the Christian life is not found in avoiding suffering, but in remaining faithful to Christ through suffering even in the face of death.



An Invitation

God may not call every believer to die as a martyr.
But He calls every believer to live as a faithful witness.

Where are your eyes fixed upon?

The question is not "*Weather I can endure the suffering?*"
The question is "*Where are my eyes fix upon to be faithful?*"

Our Vision - The Secret of Endurance

Set our eyes on heaven

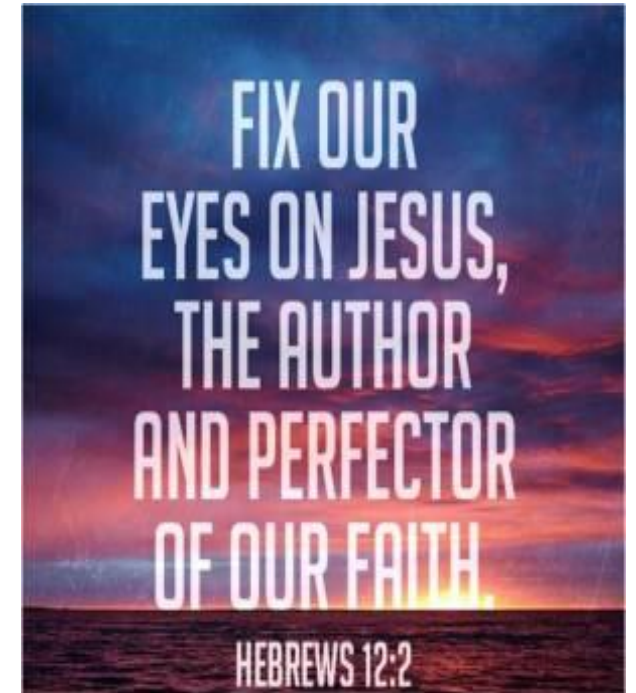
2 Corinthians 4:18,

“We fix our eyes not on what is seen but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, what is unseen is eternal.”

Our circumstances become smaller when Christ becomes greater

The song “*Turn your eyes upon Jesus, look full in his wonderful face.*”

And the things on earth will grow strangely deem, in the light of his glory and grace.”



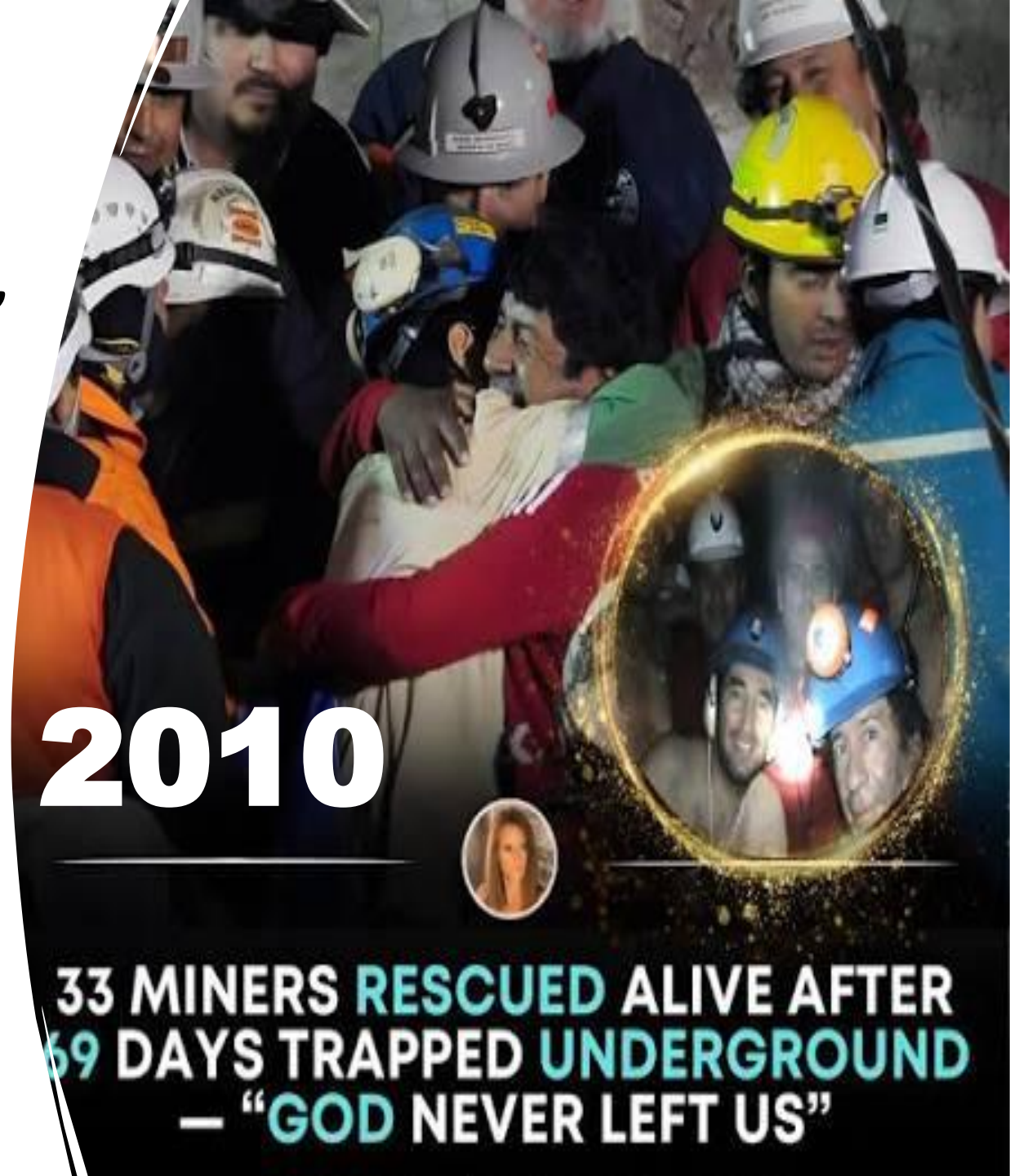
Extraordinary Vision and Hope

“We are well in the refuge.”

Look Beyond the Storm

Many of the miners publicly declared afterward that God had sustained them.

One said, “*There were actually 34 of us down there—because God never left us.*”



2010

33 MINERS RESCUED ALIVE AFTER
69 DAYS TRAPPED UNDERGROUND
— “GOD NEVER LEFT US”



When God scatters us

A job transfer. A family relocation.
A difficult circumstance. An unexpected loss.

Instead of asking, "*Why has this happened?*"
Ask, "*Where is God sending me?*"

Never underestimate our witness

- A child watching you...
- A colleague observing your integrity...
- A family member noticing your love and forgiveness...

God uses our faithfulness years later

The Bamboo Story

Are your dreams taking time to manifest?



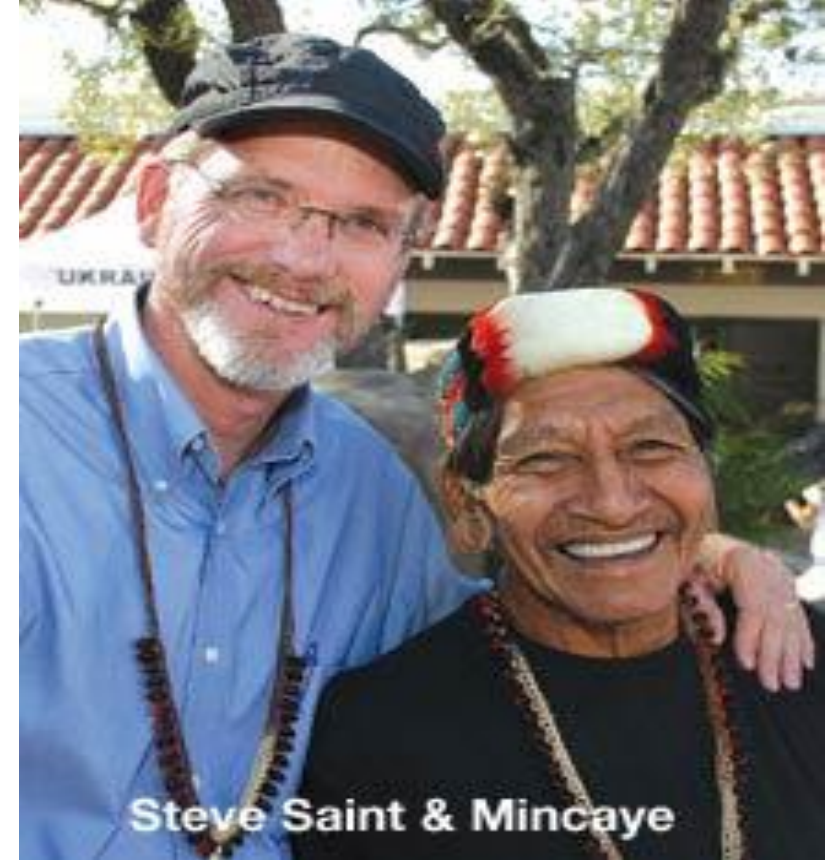
Jim Elliot and four friends

“He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain that which he cannot lose”

**Entered Ecuadorian jungle
in 1956 to reach the Waorani people**

*“Supernatural manifestation of
lights and music in the sky by angel”*
immediately after killing

**1958 Elisabeth Elliot and Rachel Saint
returned to live and minister the tribe
Mincaye and Steve Saint
and the tribe's Transformation**



Closing Challenge

"The Dash" of your life

Linda Ellis Poem 1996

Every gravestone had two dates.
Between them was a tiny dash.

**That little dash represents
your entire lifetime**

The question for each of us is not,
"How long will my dash be?"

**But "How will I live faithfully
the dash God has given me?"**



HLCE Theme 2026 - Church on the Move

The Spirit Empowered Mission and Service



GO Be Spirit-Filled Faithful Witnesses