

7. What are some things that you have got to stop trying to do for God and start dying for God to do in your life? What does it say in Hebrews 12:2...that gave God the authority to become the Perfecter of our faith? Read verse 3, how should that change things for us?

8. Take some time and pray for each other in your group...pray for the things that were just mentioned.

Stop Trying And Start Dying!

6 tips from Stephen's life:

1. Start with the **fullness** of God in your **life**.
(Acts 6:8,15)
2. Be committed to a **biblical** foundation.
(Acts 7:2-7; 33-42a; 42-50; Ephesians 1:17-19)

promises

boundaries

presence

3. Learn from the **mistakes** of the **past**.
(Acts 7:39-41)
4. Speak the **truth** even when it hurts.
(Acts 7:51-54; Romans 1:16)
5. Keep your **eyes** on Jesus.
(Acts 7:55-56; Hebrews 12:2)
6. Maintain a **Godly** perspective.
(Acts 7:57-60; Philippians 1:21)

3 things I have got to die to:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

For the week of January 17, 2010

(Questions and Scriptures for further study)

1. As we look at the life of Stephen in Acts 6:5-15...what were some things said about him? Take some time and speak wisdom & encouragement into your groups life...everyone speak about the person on your right and say a couple things/observations about your neighbors life. ("What do you see God doing in their life?")

2. Read Acts 7:2-43...go around the circle and read 1 or 2 verses each until you finish the text. In Stephen's speech he spoke of Israel's history and how they constantly needed rescue and kept rejecting it...why do you think that is?

3. Toby Mac from the band DC Talk had a song "some people got to learn the hard way"...what are some things that you constantly need rescuing from and have had to learn the hard way? What made it so hard for you?

4. Have you ever had to tell someone that the way they were living was wrong? How did that go for you? Do you think that Stephen enjoyed telling his people that they rejected and crucified Jesus? Why or why not?

5. How can we speak more of the truth in love? Look at John 16:12-14.

6. When do you think in the speech did Stephen realize that he might not be walking away from this? If you could choose how you were going to die...what way would you choose and why? How does Stephen's death inspire the way that you want to live?