

body thrown to the ground, a large stone which mangled and crushed the life out of it hurled upon it, and then stones cast at it by the rabble. There it lay a crushed, lifeless mass of clay.

2. *What the angels say.* These heavenly beings, who see not with fleshy eyes, beheld the spirit of Stephen wing its flight from the body that had been its earthly home to the right hand of God, where was standing the Saviour, who welcomed into the glory land the real Stephen, who had witnessed so faithfully for him while on earth.

The Holy Spirit, who had taught Stephen the difference between things as they appear to man and as they are known to God, gave him the power not only to forgive his enemies, but also to pray for them. How many in the class could pray for their enemies? How much more blessed they would be than they are now if they could do so! They can do so only as they are willing to be led by the Holy Spirit. Hence, have them sum up the lesson thus:

**ONLY THE HOLY SPIRIT
CAN ENABLE ME
TO IMITATE STEPHEN**

STUDY IN ADVANCE.

Tell the class that there are three persons mentioned in next week's lesson. Divide the class into three sections. Ask the first section to learn all they can about Saul, the second section to learn all they can about Philip, and the others to learn all they can about Simon.

By Way of Illustration.

BY JENNIE M. BINGHAM.

"Jesus standing on the right hand of God." I remember when first my attention was called to that verb "standing." I knew that Jesus was generally spoken of as sitting at the right hand of God. But here Stephen sees him standing, as though he had risen to welcome home his faithful disciple.—*Moody.*

Verses 55, 56. A few years ago a remarkable mirage was witnessed at Dover, England. The dome of the cathedral at Boulogne, France, thirty miles away, was distinctly visible, and by means of a telescope the lighthouse, shipping, and houses could be seen. Even a locomotive and train were seen leaving the city. If natural law could produce such a vision cannot God give to his own visions of heaven?

Heaven is not very far away. Out of it and down to the earth have come many times angels of the Lord; into it Stephen was permitted to look, and into it Enoch, Elijah, and the Lord

Jesus have gone as through a curtain of cloud. The word alluding to this curtain between earth and heaven may be translated "veil." A veil is the thinnest and frailest of all conceivable partitions.

"Lord, lay not this sin to their charge." An echo of Christ's prayer for his enemies. A native Chinese young man, a student in Peking University, was told that unless he denied Christ his lips would first be cut off, and then he would be killed. Turning to his persecutors, he said, "Then I must spend every moment left to me in trying to save you from eternal death."

A missionary of the American Board, dying a martyr in China during the recent persecution of Christians, left this request: "I want my little boy trained to be a missionary, that he may come back to these people and bring them to Christ."

"He fell asleep." Think of the contrast of all the noise of the place of martyrdom, and the images of calm suggested by the words "fell asleep." It was like a man in a storm who drops off to slumber in the midst of the whirling confusion of crashing waves and shrieking winds and when he wakes finds the ship lying anchored in some landlocked bay, and the tiny ripples making music on its motionless sides. So we may all die in and into peace, if we see above that vision of the helping Christ.

When the Romans, before Christ came, buried a body they used a word which means "laid away, done for." But Christians as they buried their loved ones called them "cemeteries," which means "sleeping places." Through all the catacombs, whither in the heat of persecution the Christians fled, and where they buried the bodies of their friends, you cannot find one dreary inscription. You read, "In peace," "In Christ," "In hope," "Here sleeps one whose spirit is received into the light of the Lord."

Heart Talks on the Lesson.

BY MRS. J. H. KNOWLES.

St. Stephen was not called to be an apostle, yet he was one of the greatest of preachers. Appointed to look after the business interests of the Church, he made so strong a combination of religion and business that his life, as well as his words, stirred the community. Two things made him the man that he was: a thorough knowledge of the word of God and the full yielding of his mind and heart to the Holy Spirit. These will make any life fruitful in good deeds and holy influence. Circumstances may be quite different; there may be no persecution, no tragic death, no transcendent glory upon the face, no