

## **SCCC – BY THE SPIRIT HE SAW THE FATHER AND THE SON**

### **S - Scriptures**

“When the members of the Sanhedrin heard this, they were furious and gnashed their teeth at him.” Acts 7: 54

### **C- Consideration**

Stephen was finishing his sermon to the same people who had killed Jesus, and had imprisoned and flogged the disciples days earlier. His last words of the discourse were: “You stiff-necked people! Your hearts and ears are still uncircumcised. You are just like your ancestors: You always resist the Holy Spirit! Was there ever a prophet your ancestors did not persecute? They even killed those who predicted the coming of the Righteous One. And now you have betrayed and murdered him— you who have received the law that was given through angels but have not obeyed it.” The next amazing thing that happened after their rage against Stephen was his eyes being opened; “... and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. “Look,” he said, “I see heaven open and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God.”

### **C – Commitment**

It is such a contrast in the story, between a godly man with a powerful message delivering it to an ungodly and obstinate crowd. The former one, full of the Spirit was looking up and seeing in a vision the glory of the Father and of the Son. Stephen had a deep relationship with the blessed Trinity. Meanwhile, his enemies, full of hatred and blind with pride, “covered their ears and, yelling at the top of their voices, dragged him out of the city and began to stone him. “ Stephen, before his death, prayed, “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit. Then he fell on his knees and cried out, “Lord, do not hold this sin against them.” He followed the example of Jesus on the cross when he prayed, “Father, forgive them, for they don’t know what they are doing.” I have to understand that it is not my power that gives me the boldness to witness to the world, to love people, even when they would not receive the message, or to forgive them from my heart. This is only possible if I have a sincere relationship with the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit just as Stephen had.

### **C – Call**

My Heavenly Father, I pray for my brethren in the world who are facing persecution, imprisonment, and death because of their faith. Pour out Your love upon their hearts, open the eyes of their hearts to see Jesus’ love for them. My God, I plead also for my faith. Help me to be a faithful man like Stephen, ready to share the message and above all, being full of the Spirit and faith. Then, to be truthful, to love, and to forgive will be actions that I will do with Your power, not through my strength, as in my flesh I have nothing to give to anyone. In Jesus’ name, I pray. Amen!