

**The Book of Acts - Chapter 8**  
**ACCEPTING THE UNIQUE TIMING AND WAYS OF GOD**  
**Dr. Larry Lamb – August 25, 2019**

We're good at making a lot of plans, but we're often frustrated when God changes our plans without our consent. Solomon, the ancient wisdom writer said this about our inability to be ultimately in control of life:

*Proverbs 19.21 You can make many plans, but the Lord's purpose will prevail.*

*Proverbs 16.33 We may throw the dice, but the Lord determines how they fall.*

How could God allow such a godly man to be treated this way and ultimately lose his life? Because God allowed it. God answers to no one.

*Isaiah 55.8,9 My thoughts are nothing like your thoughts," says the Lord. And my ways are far beyond anything you could imagine. <sup>9</sup> For just as the heavens are higher than the earth, so my ways are higher than your ways and my thoughts higher than your thoughts.*

*REF Acts 1.8 and Acts 8.1*

*REF Acts 8.4-6*

- People scattered and preached the Good News wherever they went.
- Philip told people about the Messiah.

*REF Acts 8.7,8*

Only God knows the true condition of someone's heart. Salvation is more than: believing that there is Jesus (even the demons believe this). There is an internal transformation because of:

1. The acknowledgement and CONFESSION of our sin (*not good works*).
2. The belief along with the acceptance of our new DESIRES and decisions change.

New desires including:

The Word of God, The people of God, A life for God & The submission to God

*REF 2 Corinthians 5.16-18*

1. Regarding the changes of life: God can and will make changes in all of our lives without our PERMISSION that can produce frustration or deeper faith.
2. Regarding surface professions of faith, God is the ultimate DISCERNER of all hearts. However, there are still visible markers of genuine salvation and the most obvious marker is *obedience*.
3. Regarding the communication of the Gospel: God can and will ARRANGE His people to be at the right place, for the right reason, and with the right person in order for us to communicate the gospel.

How many God-ordained opportunities have we missed  
either because of fear or indifference?

- > People can never take away your STORY . Be ready.  
(What was your life like before Christ, what/who did God use in your life, and how has your life changed?)
- > People can live with private pain SEARCHING for hope . Be sensitive.
- > People don't want the TRUTH crammed down their throats. Be thoughtful.
- > People don't need a LECTURE on the history of world religions and soteriological dimensions of theology to confuse them. Be wise.

*Stick with the gospel: Everyone sins, Jesus died for all sinners, and Jesus is the hope for every heart because of the CROSS.*

CVC Mission Statement

*"Inviting the lost and broken into our Christ- centered journey  
from empty religion to generational life change."*

God our Father, I believe that out of Your infinite love You have created me. In a thousand ways I have shunned Your love. I repent of each and every one of my sins. Please forgive me. Thank You for sending Your Son to die for me, to save me from eternal death. I choose this day to enter into a covenant with You and to place Jesus at the center of my heart. I surrender to Him as Lord over my whole life. I ask You now to flood my soul with the gift of the Holy Spirit so that my life may be transformed. Give me the grace and courage to live as a disciple in Your Church for the rest of my days. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.