

Energized for Mission - No Pain No Gain

Acts 8:1-25

We know it's true in the _____ and on the athletic field, but it is also true in our career, business, relationships, and other areas of our personal lives: no pain, no gain. No difficulty, no effort or hard work, no _____.

Today we see that this is also true when it comes to God's _____. No pain, no gain. In Acts 8 there is pain all over. Yet there is also great gain that comes through it all.

This makes complete sense if we consider Jesus Christ whose pain gained a _____ and a _____.

Here are some of the sources of "pain" or "discomfort" in the passage:

The _____ of Stephen, a close companion, friend, brother in Christ, and brave leader.

Persecution arises and makes (nearly) everyone a _____.

People are _____ from the comfort of their homes and communities.

They have to learn a new _____ very quickly - _____ the Gospel.

Philip ends up in _____! Ouch!

People give up following _____.

Simon gives up a strong _____.

Here are some things that gained:

Fulfillment of Jesus' _____! It comes to pass even when _____ get in the way!

Missionaries _____. One person reaching a hundred vs. 10,000 reaching 1...2...10...

The Gospel spreads more _____ and more _____.

Barriers are _____ and _____ built.

A pagan leader of the _____ arts is converted.

A stronghold of the _____ is destroyed!

See God do _____ stuff...

But now seeing him do it through _____!!!

Seeing others experience _____.

A sobering _____ that our past and our _____ don't give up easily.

Pain, suffering, challenges, and discomfort are not all bad. God can use them to move us _____ our comfort zone to help us stretch and grow. Which can ultimately bring eternal blessings to our _____.

Even without persecution and suffering like we see in Acts, God is inviting us to _____ in his mission every day, if we will stop resisting the movement of his Holy _____ among us. God has gifted you and prepared you to be his _____ in ways your pastor and brothers and sisters in Christ can't. Embrace the pain and discomfort it may require and much will be _____.

How is the Holy Spirit revealing a "Jerusalem" you have been unwilling to leave?

How may the Holy Spirit be leading you to embrace some pain and discomfort that will bolster God's mission?

Who can you reach that your pastor and brothers and sisters in Christ cannot?

What are you going to DO in response to what Christ has already DONE for you?