

## **God's power and the persecuted**

Acts 6:8-8:3

- Acts 1:8

“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you” [Acts 1-2]

“and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem” [Acts 3-7]

“and in all Judea and Samaria” [Acts 8-12]

“and to the end of the earth” [Acts 13-28]

God's power and the persecuted [Acts 6:8-8:3]

God's power and those who appear to be close to God [Acts 8:4-25]

God's power and those who appear to be far from God [Acts 8:26-40]

God's power and the persecutor [Acts 9:1-22]

### **I. There will be persecution against Christians [Acts 6:8-15]**

- Acts 6:5

*Implications:*

- *Don't be surprised by persecution if you are living for Christ*
- *Remember that living for God is the goal, not persecution*

### **II. There is a message in the midst of persecution [Acts 7:1-53]**

- a. God is the foundation [1-8]
  - b. God has raised up people to bring deliverance, but were rejected time after time [9-43]
    - Joseph [9-16]
    - Moses [17-43]
  - c. God's presence is greater than the temple [44-53]
    - Tabernacle [44-45]
    - Temple [46-47]
    - Jesus [48-53]

*Implications:*

- *There is a message we can hold onto*
- *There is a message we can share*

### **III. There can be a spreading of God's power from persecution [Acts 7:54-8:3]**

- a. Power to see God – personal power [Acts 7:54-56]
- b. Power to show Christ – evangelistic power [Acts 7:57-60]
  - Luke 23:46
  - Luke 23:34
- c. Power that spreads beyond one's reach – missional power [Acts 8:1-3]

*Implications:*

- Pray for yourself
- Pray for the persecuted church
- Pray for the spreading of God's power