

The Gospel Always Advances

ACTS 7:54 - 8:8

**The Gospel advances
with dying prayers.
(7:54-60)**

**The Gospel advances
with disturbing persecution.
(8:1-3)**

**The Gospel advances
with devoted preaching.
(8:4-8)**

⁵⁴ Now when they heard these things they were enraged, and they ground their teeth at him. ⁵⁵ But he, full of the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. ⁵⁶ And he said, “Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God.” ⁵⁷ But they cried out with a loud voice and stopped their ears and rushed together at him.

Acts 7:54-60

⁵⁸ Then they cast him out of the city and stoned him. And the witnesses laid down their garments at the feet of a young man named Saul. ⁵⁹ And as they were stoning Stephen, he called out, “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.” ⁶⁰ And falling to his knees he cried out with a loud voice, “Lord, do not hold this sin against them.” And when he had said this, he fell asleep.

Acts 7:54-60

The Gospel advances with dying prayers.

¹¹ And every priest stands daily at his service, offering repeatedly the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins. ¹² But when Christ had offered for all time a single sacrifice for sins, he sat down at the right hand of God,

Hebrews 10:11-12

The Gospel advances with dying prayers.

And when they bring you to trial and deliver you over, do not be anxious beforehand what you are to say, but say whatever is given you in that hour, for it is not you who speak, but the Holy Spirit.”

Mark 13:11

1. GREAT FAITH

“Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.”

1209 déxomai

Transliteration: dechomai

Phonetic Spelling: (dekh'-om-ahee)

to take with the hand

3908 paratíthēmi

Transliteration: paratithēmi

Phonetic Spelling: (par-at-ith'-ay-mee)

(from 3844 /pará, "right close beside" and 5087 /títhēmi, "to place, put") – properly, to set close beside (right next to); (figuratively) entrust; commit to in a very up-close-and-personal way (note the force of the prefix para).

2. GREAT FORGIVENESS

“Lord, do not hold this sin against them.”

- a. Forgiveness is produced by forgiven people. (It's nearly impossible to give away something you don't have yourself.)
- b. Forgiveness is postured upon prayer. (It's nearly impossible to speak for God if you don't talk to God.)
- c. Forgiveness is the pathway to peace. (It's nearly impossible to feel settled if you haven't settled it for yourself.)

¹ And Saul approved of his execution. And there arose on that day a great persecution against the church in Jerusalem, and they were all scattered throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria, except the apostles. ² Devout men buried Stephen and made great lamentation over him. ³ But Saul was ravaging the church, and entering house after house, he dragged off men and women and committed them to prison. ⁴ Now those who were scattered went about preaching the word.

Acts 8:1-4

The Gospel advances with disturbing persecution.

The diaspora is often used to refer to the Jewish dispersion throughout the world and here in Acts 8 we see the Christian component of the diaspora. Diaspora literally means “to sow throughout.”

The Gospel advances with disturbing persecution.

If you feel persecuted for your faith or when your surroundings make you uncomfortable remember to remain missional. Followers of Christ are always to follow, no matter the place they find themselves residing or passing through.

⁵ Philip went down to the city of Samaria and proclaimed to them the Christ. ⁶ And the crowds with one accord paid attention to what was being said by Philip, when they heard him and saw the signs that he did. ⁷ For unclean spirits, crying out with a loud voice, came out of many who had them, and many who were paralyzed or lame were healed. ⁸ So there was much joy in that city.

Acts 8:5-8



**The Gospel advances
with devoted preaching.**

I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work.

John 9:4 (KJV)

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