

When Currents Collide

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Adversity cannot stop the current of God's mission—God works through it to advance the gospel.

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. Acts 8:1-3

- See everything with faith.

God works through ordinary people to advance the gospel.

Now those who were scattered went about preaching the word. ⁵ Philip went down to the city of Samaria and proclaimed to them the Christ. Acts 8:4-5 ESV

- Proclaim Christ where you are.

God prepares and equips us with the presence and power of the Holy Spirit.

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 8:6-8

- Expect the Holy Spirit to show up in power.

God leads us to unexpected places to reach specific people.

Now an angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Rise and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." This is a desert place. ²⁷ And he rose and went. And there was an Ethiopian, a eunuch... ²⁸ ...and he was reading the prophet Isaiah. ²⁹ The Spirit said to Philip, "Go over and join this chariot." ³⁰ So Philip ran to him... ³⁵ Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning with this Scripture he told him the good news about Jesus. Acts 8:26-30, 35 ESV

- Obey when God interrupts.

Let's Talk About It

When life gets disrupted, it can feel like everything's falling apart—but that's often when God shows up most powerfully. In Acts 8, persecution scatters the church, but instead of stopping the gospel, God's kingdom advances. Ordinary people start proclaiming Christ wherever they go, and the gospel reaches new places. God leads Philip from a thriving revival to one searching soul in the desert—reminding us that no place or person is too small for His mission. The same Spirit is at work in us today. God is still moving—and He invites us to follow Him and proclaim Christ with FAITH (being faithful, available, involved, teachable, and hungry).

Acts 1:8; Acts 8; 1 Corinthians 1:27-29; John 14:12; 1 Corinthians 14:1

Discussion questions:

- Which part of the message impacted or challenged you?
- Read Acts 8:1-5. How does God use persecution to move His mission forward? What surprises you about that? How do you see both God's sovereignty and people's obedience working together in this chapter?
- Share a moment when disruption or adversity led to unexpected growth or opportunity. What helps you stay available to God's leading, even when it's inconvenient or unclear?
- How can you cultivate greater expectancy and desire for the Holy Spirit to work in and through your life? What would it look like for you to pursue love and earnestly desire spiritual gifts in your current season?
- Would you consider yourself full of FAITH? Which one (faithful, available, involved, teachable, hungry) is most challenging for you and why? What step can you take to grow in that area?
- Read Acts 8:26-35. What's one way you can proclaim Christ in your current environment—school, work, family, neighborhood? Is there someone in your life who might seem unlikely, but whom God might be prompting you to reach out to?

Take a Step

Ask God to show you where He is already working—at your job, in your home, or even in a difficult situation. Take a step to join Him in that work, whether it's starting a conversation, offering to pray for someone, or sharing the Gospel with them.

Here's My Prayer

God, thank You that You are always at work—even in the middle of adversity. Help me to be available and obedient, just like Philip. Give me eyes to see where You're moving and a willing heart to join You. Use me today to share Your love with someone who needs it. In Jesus' name, amen.