

POWER FOR LIVING

— Acts of the Apostles —

Power For Everyone *5/8

BIG IDEA

Jesus' church is scattered to reach & include every race, rank & religion.

God's church thrives under a wave of **persecution**.

Acts 8:1–3 (NLT) A **great wave of persecution** began that day, sweeping over the church in Jerusalem; and **all the believers** except the apostles were **scattered** through the regions of **Judea** and **Samaria**.

God scattered his witnesses everywhere to preach this Good News “*wherever they went*”.

Acts 8:4–8 (NLT) 4 But the believers who were **scattered preached** the **Good News** about Jesus **wherever they went**.

RESPONSE?

Crowds listened intently in Samaria.

Acts 8:6,8 (NLT) **Crowds listened intently** to Philip because they were **eager to hear** his message and **see the miraculous signs** he did. ... 8 So there was **great joy in that city**.

1. A Samaritan sorcerer.

Acts 8:13 (NLT) 13 Then **Simon** himself **believed** and was **baptized**. He began following Philip wherever he went, and he was **amazed by the signs and great miracles** Philip performed.

2. An African government official.

Acts 8:26–28,35,38 (NLT) 26 As for Philip, an angel of the Lord said to him, “Go south down the desert road that runs from Jerusalem to Gaza.” 27 So he started out, and he met the **treasurer of Ethiopia**, a eunuch of **great authority under** the Kandake, the **queen of Ethiopia**.

35 So **beginning with this same Scripture, Philip told him the Good News about Jesus.**

38 He ordered the carriage to stop, and they went down into the water, and **Philip baptized him.**

God’s church is for every **different** race, rank and religion.

The message is the same for everyone, the **method** was not.

“There is no one anywhere that God cannot reach with His spirit-filled witnesses.”

WHAT NOW?

1. Share your Jesus story with those who seem unlikely to come to faith.
2. Expect to change **methods** without changing the **message**.
3. To be a “beyond our borders” church full of generous disciples, let’s “live to give.”

CONTINUING THE CONVERSATION

1. God’s gospel & church are for every **different** race, rank and religion. Is there any particular kind of person who you struggle to believe could be saved? (Ex. Occultist, addict, gov’t official, trafficker, Red Sox fan, ethnicity, family member, etc.)
2. What might our church family need to do differently in order to expand beyond our borders & include everyone?
3. What aspect of the vision for our church to LIVE TO GIVE is most inspiring to you?