



Willing and Walking

Recap:

- * Contenders are willing servants.
- * Contenders shine in suffering.
- * The Lord leverages suffering for His glory.

Acts 8:1-3 (NIV)

And Saul approved of their killing him. On that day a great persecution broke out against the church in Jerusalem, and all except the apostles were scattered throughout Judea and Samaria. ² Godly men buried Stephen and mourned deeply for him. ³ But Saul began to destroy the church. Going from house to house, he dragged off both men and women and put them in prison.

Persecution - Harassing somebody in order to persuade or force them to give up their religion, or simply to attack someone for religious reasons.

- What the enemy meant for evil, God leverages for good.

Acts 1:8 (NIV)

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

- Don't give up on the story of God in the middle of the narrative.

Acts 8:4-5 (NIV)

Those who had been scattered preached the word wherever they went. ⁵ Philip went down to a city in Samaria and proclaimed the Messiah there.

- God is not bound to one people in one place.
- Persecution was the fertilizer for the growth of the church. (Acts 8:6-8)
- Jesus and the person of the Holy Spirit are the heroes, Philip is the vessel. Acts 8:26 (NIV)
- Sometimes the call to obedience doesn't make sense.
- Willingness is the first step.
- Obedience is the second step.
- Then we find ourselves walking with the King. (Acts 8:27)
- Everybody needs a Savior. (Acts 8:28-29)
- The Holy Spirit does the prep work.
- Since the prep work was done, it takes the pressure off of us. (Acts 8:30-31)
- We are called to be in touch with the Spirit and prepared with the gospel. (II Timothy 4:2; Romans 10:14-15; Acts 8:32-35; Isaiah 56:3-5)
- Philip shared what he had. (Acts 8:36-38)
- Obedience is the fertile soil in which the testimony of the Holy Spirit grows and is revealed. (Acts 8:39-40)
- This movement of the Holy Spirit is still moving and still growing.