

# ACTS

## CHAPTER 8:1-8

MEDIA REFERENCE NUMBER SMX 173 Sunday, September 18, 1994

TITLE:

### A CHURCH ON THE MOVE

THEME:

Acts 1:8

“But you shall receive **power** when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and “**you shall be witnesses to Me**” in **Jerusalem**, and in all **Judea** and **Samaria**, and to the **end of the earth.** “

Last Wednesday, ABC World News

*American Indians have taught for thousands of years that world peace will come to earth, when  
The White Bison is born,*

Well, This Month

*(September 94)*

## “The White Bison” Was Born !

*who knows, it could mean something, or maybe it's Bull. Time will tell.*

*The Hope of the World is becoming increasingly Hope-less*

**Our Last Visit was at the murder scene of Stephen.**

**Touch a man's religion and watch out**

*The Blood of the Martyr is the seed of the church*

*The Blood of Stephen, lubricated, Propelled the church*

1.) “Pro” - Motion                      from the Outside                      vv. 1-3

2.) “Pro” - Motion                      *from the Inside*                      vv. 4-8

Psalm 75:6

promotion cometh neither from the east, nor from the west, nor from the south. **God delights in “Pro”-moting  
you “Con”-demning you**

Now Saul, *a background check*

## Saul was Judaism's Rising Star;

Note; *he was not a stone thrower, that was left for manual laborers.*

**Acts 7:58**

**... And the witnesses laid down their clothes at the feet of a young man named Saul. *the Religious Yuppie***

### Saul/Paul Comments;

**Galatians 1:14**

**Regarding his position he says that he “profited in the Jews' religion above many my equals in mine own nation, being more exceedingly zealous of the traditions of my fathers.**

**Philippians 3:4-5**

though I also might have confidence in the flesh. If anyone else thinks he may have confidence in the flesh, I more so: **Circumcised the eighth day, of the stock of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, an Hebrew of the Hebrews; as touching the law, a Pharisee; :6 Concerning zeal, persecuting the church; touching the righteousness which is in the law, blameless.**

- He was a member of the Sanhedrin, Required him to be married,
- He was Divorced or widowed by the time of his writings.

√ Saul was disciplined, *He was energetic, he was passionate, he was ardent, he was sincere,..... sincerely wrong.*

√ Saul had committed himself *fully to the knowledge that he had... but once enlightened... he received the fullness (the knowledge of Christ)*

### Jesus Had Said;

**John 16:2**

**"They will put you out of the synagogues; and the time is coming that whoever kills you will think that he does God a service.**

**Consenting** GRK to agree with, to vote for, to cast the verdict

### Those Who Did Stay...

*developed a covert way of finding fellowship. While talking to someone, they would, with their toe, draw a fish. The Fish drawn in the dirt was the symbol meaning “God Provides(ed)” inside was etched IXOYE Jesus Christ Son of God, Savior*

### Verse 2

**“Devout Men”** good, honest, compassionate, **Non-Christians**

**..and made Great Lamentation...** UNNECESSARILY SO. Stephen was enjoying Heaven at that moment.

What Jesus had accomplished *was not fully understood... Death had been defeated.*

This “Body” of ours, these 14 basic, fundamental elements which make up our bodies, make up the planets we see, the animals we know. **When Life is removed you put it back into the earth like a seed. That’s not the full story !!!**

## The Bible Teaches Resurrection!,

*A funeral for an unbeliever is a funeral, A funeral for a believer is a celebration.*

### 1 Thessalonians 4:13

But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, lest you sorrow as others who have no hope. **:14** For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus. **:15** For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep. **:16** For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. **:17** Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. **:18 Therefore comfort one another with these words.**

### Verse 3

**Havoc GRK** *to tear or mutilate the flesh, the reaction of a wound; a boar.*

When you go hunting for wild Boar, wild Pig. The last thing you want to do is wound that Boar, Pig. Because they go into a wild frenzy, they freak out, scream and charge you to kill you like they’re possessed - **Deviled Ham !!!**

*For us Today it’s like a shark’s feeding frenzy*

### Something happens to Saul;

*he becomes very violent and dangerous as he will turn into a blood thirsty pharisaical gang-banger. Paul would mount his donkey and go about on a drive-by shooting spree looking for Christians*

### Stephen’s Witness;

*Tormented by **a zeal and conviction greater than his**, Saul was wounded, He was convicted, he was Guilty... He reacts by attacking the church. The memory of Stephen’s stoning will eventually drive him to Jesus.*

### The Benefits of Persecution;

#### Philippians 1:12-13

But I want you to know, brethren, that the things which happened to me have actually turned out for the furtherance of the gospel, **:13** so that it has become evident to the whole palace guard, and to all the rest, that ***my chains are in Christ;***

*(meaning: what I believe is true and that truth is persuading others)*

## 2.) "Pro" - Motion *from the Inside*

vv. 4-8

Acts 1:8

"But you shall receive **power** when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and "**you shall be witnesses to Me**" in **Jerusalem**, and in all **Judea** and **Samaria**, and to the **end of the earth.**"

### Verse 4

**Scattered** GRK *diaspeiro (dee-as-pi'-ro)* agricultural term, to sow throughout THE land, to distribute in foreign places, to broadcast the seed:

Matthew 28:18-19

And Jesus said to them "All **authority** has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. "**Go** therefore and make disciples of **all the nations**, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,

It's the "Go" part that we struggle with

Isaiah 6

In the year that king Uzziah died, I saw the Lord... Whom shall I send.....then said I hear I am Lord, send me  
Isaiah 6:9 And He said, "Go,"

A Texan Billionaire took some university business students on a tour of his mansion, when asked how he made his billions he replied, by sheer courage... in fact, you see this swimming pool, this pool is filled with alligators "I'll give a billion dollars to anyone who will swim across my alligator infested pool.....as they walked away a splash was heard and sure enough a student swam as fast as he could across that pool and jumped out "young man you have courage and I'm a man of my word... here's a billion dollars, young man, do you have anything to say?... I just want to know "who pushed me"

God Pushed the church out into the Ministry.....

**Preaching**

GRK euaggelizo (yoo-ang-ghel-id'-zo)

to announce or introduce good news ("evangel-ize") to **be bringing** good-tidings, (*while coming & going*)

### Verse 5

Deacon Philip (like Deacon Stephen) what a Deacon's Ministry that Church had. **Pro-motion**

**Preached**

GRK *kerusso (kay-roos'-so)*

to proclaim, herald, publish (**as a public or town crier**) a preacher or evangelist

Ephesians 4:11

And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some *evangelists* (Philip) and some *pastors* - teachers,(Stephen)

The region of Samaria was despised by the Jew. Avoided by them. They Journeyed around Samaria rather than go through it. They were Half Breeds Part Gentile Part Hebrew and considered "dogs"

John 4:4

And he must needs go through Samaria.

*"Because He had a date with a woman at a well"*

Luke 17:11

Now it happened as He went to Jerusalem that He passed through the midst of Samaria and Galilee.

The Gospel Has No Geographical Center... it moved from Jerusalem, to Antioch, to Alexandria Egypt to the World !

- Judaism has Jerusalem
- Islam has Mecca
- Mormonism has Salt Lake City
- Jehovah Witnesses have Brooklyn

### Christianity Claims None of the Above

1 Peter 2:11

you are as strangers and pilgrims,

### Verse 6

The *Hearing* refers to the gift of tongues, words of knowledge, words of wisdom (the vocal gifts of the Holy Spirit)

### Regarding Miracles

*John 14:11-12*

"Believe Me that I am in the Father and the Father in Me, or else (at very least) believe Me for the sake of the works themselves. :12 "Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also; and greater works than these he will do, because I go to My Father (Meaning, The Holy Spirit will do them through you).

### Verse 7

Why were they *crying*? because they couldn't have their way anymore. They were losing ground.

*Crying*

GRK boao (bo-ah'-o)

to shriek or to howl. a violent wailing for help

## True Story;

Rebekah, Our Twelve Year Old, gathered up a little ant and put him into the refrigerator to see what would happen... well he/she, Antie "froze up", ceased to move, appeared to be dead. Until she took to antie out of the fridge, placed he/she Antie in the palm of her hand and breathed on it.....he/she Antie came back, leaping up stood, and walked and entered into the temple, walking, and leaping, and praising God.....

### John 20:21-22

So Jesus said to them again, "Peace to you! As the Father has sent Me, I also send you." And when He had said this, He breathed on them, and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit.

The Scripture Warns That a Life Void of the Indwelling Holy Spirit is Open to Demonic Occupancy...

### Luke 11:23

"He who is not with Me is against Me, and he who does not gather with Me scatters. :24 "When an unclean spirit goes out of a man, he goes through dry places, seeking rest; and finding none, he says, `I will return to my house from which I came..... :26 "Then he goes and takes with him seven other spirits more wicked than himself and they enter and dwell there; and the last state of that man is worse than the first."

There has been an attempt to explain away Demonic activity.

It's a psychosis, it's a condition, it's genetic, it's emotional. it's psychological - **it's not soul-logical but spirit-logical.**

For many it's demonic harassment, even **P**ossession.

## The Flip Side to Demonism - Cousin Ken

article: TIME magazine

### Extra-Marital Affairs are Linked to your Genes

*(you experiment, you acquire a taste, you become hooked, Your life is destroyed)*

CBS Evening News

### Murder Now May be Genetic

*(you experimented, you acquired a taste, you became hooked, Your life is destroyed)*

So Called Christian Radio

### If you're a Pervert, you have

A Compulsive Sexual Habit

*(you experimented, you acquired a taste, you became hooked, Your life is destroyed)*

You Do anything enough, long enough and that very thing will control you and open you up to Possession, and paralysis and lameness.

Isaiah 5:20

Woe to those who call *evil good, and good evil*; who put darkness for light, and light for darkness; who put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!

2 Corinthians 10:4

For the weapons of our warfare *are not carnal (meat or soul)* but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds,

Verse 8

*Great Joy*

Not a Great Burden, Not a Great Yoke,  
Not a Great Program

THE GOSPEL (*The Good News*)

If you think being a Christian

*is hard... Remember what it was like not being a Christian.*

**Luke 2:10**

Then the angel said to them, "I bring you good tidings of **great joy**

**Luke 24:52**

And they worshipped Him, and returned to Jerusalem with **great joy**,

**1 Thessalonians 1:6**

And you became followers of us and of the Lord, having received the word in much affliction, with **joy of the Holy Spirit**,

**Psalms 126:5**

Those who sow in tears shall reap in **joy**.

## It's Time To Change Course

A Ship sailing the Atlantic saw a flash of light up ahead, so the ship flashed in Morris code "**alter course 10° west.**" the distant light flashed back "**you alter course 10° west**" Well, the Admiral grabbed the sender and flashed "**this is Admiral Wilson, USN, Alter your course 10 to the west, that's an order**".....Then came the reply "**This is seamen 3rd class Jones USN, alter course 10° to the west.**" Angry and having His pride dented, the Admiral flashed "**I'm a Battleship... Alter your course 10° to the west or else**" So seamen 3rd class Jones flashed back "**You Alter your course 10° to the west... I am a lighthouse!**"

Proverbs 14:12

There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way of (death) destruction.