



ACTS

UNHINDERED

Acts 8:1-40

“UN-CONFINED”

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

- Acts 1:8

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ACTS

## 1. Scattered and Spreading – 8:1-4

*“great persecution ... those who were scattered went about preaching the word.”*

## 2. Samaria and Syncretism – 8:5-25

*“Samaria received the word of God ... Simon offered them money”*

## 3. Ethiopian and Eunuch – 8:26-40

*“There was an Ethiopian, a Eunuch ... baptized ... went on his way rejoicing!”*

*How are we part of the ever-extending  
growth of Christ's church?*



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## 1. Scattered and Spreading – 8:1-4

*“great persecution ... those who were scattered went about preaching the word.”*

Not Confined by Peaceful Circumstances

Extreme Persecution leading to  
Extended Proclamation

“The blood of martyrs is the seed of the church.”

- *Tertullian*

“Instead of smothering the gospel, persecution succeeded only in spreading it. As Bengel comments, ‘the wind increases the flame’. An instructive modern parallel is what happened in 1949 in China when the National Government was defeated by the Communists. Six hundred and thirty-seven China Inland Mission missionaries were obliged to leave. It seemed a total disaster. Yet within four years 286 of them had been redeployed in South-East Asia and Japan, while the national Christians in China, even under severe persecution, began to multiply and now total thirty or forty times the number they were when the missionaries left (the exact figures are not known).”

- Stott



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## 2. Samaria and Syncretism – 8:5-25

*“Samaria received the word of God ... Simon offered them money”*

“On the next day we departed and came to Caesarea, and we entered the house of Philip the evangelist, who was one of the seven, and stayed with him.”

- Acts 21:8

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## 2. Samaria and Syncretism – 8:5-25

*“Samaria received the word of God ... Simon offered them money”*

Not Confined by Cultural Prejudices

Greater than “Great” – Gift of God Received

Not Selling Out to Simon/Silver/Syncretism

“Ever since that day, the attempt to turn the spiritual into the commercial, to traffic in the things of God, and especially to purchase ecclesiastical office, has been termed ‘simony’.”

- *John Stott*

Syncretism-

“a systematic attempt to combine, blend and reconcile inharmonious, even often conflicting, religious elements.”

- *Hendrik Kraemer*



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Not Confined by Physical Limitations

Ends of the Earth not Excluded

“The queen of the South will rise up at the judgment with the men of this generation and condemn them, for she came from the ends of the earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon, and behold, something greater than Solomon is here.”

- Luke 11:31

“No one whose testicles are crushed or whose male organ is cut off shall enter the assembly of the LORD.”

- Deuteronomy 23:1



“Let not the foreigner who has joined himself to the LORD say, “The LORD will surely separate me from his people”; and let not the eunuch say, “Behold, I am a dry tree.” For thus says the LORD: “To the eunuchs who keep my Sabbaths, who choose the things that please me and hold fast my covenant, I will give in my house and within my walls a monument and a name better than sons and daughters; I will give them an everlasting name that shall not be cut off.”

- Isaiah 56:3-5



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Rejoicing and Reaching Out with the Gospel

*How are we part of the ever-extending  
growth of Christ's church?*

