

Plugged In

Acts 8:1 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. 4 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. 6 When the crowds heard Philip and saw the signs he performed, they all paid close attention to what he said. 7 For with shrieks, impure spirits came out of many, and many who were paralyzed or lame were healed. 8 So there was great joy in that city. 9 Now for some time a man named Simon had practiced sorcery in the city and amazed all the people of Samaria. He boasted that he was someone great, 10 and all the people, both high and low, gave him their attention and exclaimed, "This man is rightly called the Great Power of God." 11 They followed him because he had amazed them for a long time with his sorcery. 12 But when they believed Philip as he proclaimed the good news of the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women. 13 Simon himself believed and was baptized. And he followed Philip everywhere, astonished by the great signs and miracles he saw.

Philip, the first missionary

Acts 8:5 Philip went down to a city in Samaria and proclaimed the Messiah there.

This isn't the _____ time we read about _____.

Acts 6:2 So the Twelve gathered all the disciples together and said, "It would not be right for us to neglect the ministry of the word of God in order to wait on tables. 3 Brothers and sisters, choose seven men from among you who are known to be full of the Spirit and wisdom. We will turn this responsibility over to them 4 and will give our attention to prayer and the ministry of the word."

He started by _____ in a small way and _____ to become someone powerfully used by God.

It's easy to feel like we don't _____ to the first missionary in history... but there's an _____ part that's easy to miss here...

Acts 8:4 Those who had been scattered preached the word wherever they went.

"Those who had been scattered"

The suggestion is strong that they'd been _____ before they scattered.

_____ preaching = _____

Not all of them are specially _____ as evangelists, but they're all using their gifts in an _____ fashion.

Those who have gathered here...

At first glance, our situation doesn't seem to _____ this one at all.

Or does it?

Jn 17:15 My prayer is not that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one. 16 They are not of the world, even as I am not of it. 17 Sanctify them by[d] the truth; your word is truth. 18 As you sent me into the world, I have sent them into the world. 19 For them I sanctify myself, that they too may be truly sanctified.

Instead of _____, should we instead _____ our perspective a bit?

Refocused sight...

As we allow the Lord to refocus our _____, several things become readily _____

1- We've been _____ with the _____ we need...

Acts 1:8 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."

2- We've had the _____ set for us...

Phil 2:5 In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus:

3- We were each specifically _____ with this in mind...

Eph 2:10 For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do. 2 Cor 5:17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here.... 20 We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God.

4- We're all already _____ somewhere...

Matt 28:19 Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

We have this _____ message...

I Cor 1:23 but we preach Christ crucified: a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, 24 but to those whom God has called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. 25 For the foolishness of God is wiser than man's wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than man's strength.

...do we _____ it?