

# ACTS

## Salvation and the Spirit

Acts 8:4-25

### Context – Persecution to Proliferation (Acts 8:1-4)

*And there arose on that day a great persecution against the church in Jerusalem, and they were all scattered throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria, except the apostles. (Acts 8:1)*

*Now those who were scattered went about preaching the word. (Acts 8:4)*

The \_\_\_\_\_ of disciples led to the \_\_\_\_\_ of the Word! (This is God’s providence.)

And it wasn’t the \_\_\_\_\_ spreading the faith. It was persecuted \_\_\_\_\_. (This is God’s plan).

### Philip – the Evangelist Deacon (Acts 8:5-13)

Acts 1:8 is being fulfilled (though probably not as the church expected it to).

\_\_\_\_\_ presents certain challenges and opportunities ...

The great impact of the Gospel received: \_\_\_\_!

Philip preached two critical themes: The \_\_\_\_\_ of God and the \_\_\_\_\_ of Christ ...

### The Spirit Delayed – Why? (Acts 8:14-17)

The events described here are \_\_\_\_\_ and not \_\_\_\_\_ for the church after Acts.

3 important reasons why:

1) This is the first time the Gospel has gone outside of Jerusalem and into \_\_\_\_\_.

In a real sense, this a second (Samaritan) \_\_\_\_\_.

Acts 8:16-17 parallels Acts 2:4 (and later, Acts 10:44 and 19:6)

2) This is about the \_\_\_\_\_ of the true Church.

Long had there been a schism between Jews and Samaritans. (Consider even John’s attitude in Luke 9:54!)

Now they are baptized into that same Spirit (1 Corinthians 12:13).

Also, the apostolic recognition was critical. The presence of the apostles (the laying on of hands) and the visible manifestation of the Spirit authenticated the faith of Samaritans.

3) The testimony of the Apostles (Scripture) is clear on \_\_\_\_\_ and the Holy Spirit:

Peter – Acts 2:38-39

Paul – Romans 8:9

### Simon Magus – Heathen Convert or Heretic?

Consider how Luke describes him ...

Consider his ‘\_\_\_\_\_’ ...

Consider his desire for the ability to ‘dispense’ (not receive for himself) the Holy Spirit ...

Consider Peter’s subsequent \_\_\_\_\_ of Simon ...

In later Christian literature Simon is depicted as “the father of all heresies and as the unrelenting adversary of Peter from place to place, and ultimately in Rome”. (F.F. Bruce)

### Don’t Miss This:

God’s purposes are always \_\_\_\_\_.

God’s power to \_\_\_\_\_ is amazing.

God’s salvation is \_\_\_\_\_.

God’s people are instruments of \_\_\_\_\_.

*Now when they had testified and spoken the word of the Lord, they returned to Jerusalem, preaching the gospel to many villages of the Samaritans. (Acts 8:25)*

*Dr. Paul Thompson  
Calvary Baptist Church  
May 15, 2022*

### Grounded in the Faith Class

**Begins Tuesday, May 10 | 6pm | The Cafe in Children’s Building**

It’s not too late to attend the Grounded in the Faith class. This class is designed for believers of all levels of maturity. New Christians will begin building a Biblically-based foundation in theology and in practicing their faith. Those who have followed Christ for many years will sharpen their understanding of key Biblical principles that will aid in evangelism and discipleship.

If this is a training you would be interested in committing to for a season, please email [grounded@calvarydothan.com](mailto:grounded@calvarydothan.com) and let us know.

### The Alternative: Creation’s Competitive Edge

**Wednesday, June 29 | 6pm | Sanctuary**

In conjunction with our Midweek study in Genesis we invite you to join us in this special service with Dr. Robert Carter from Creation Ministries International.

Does God exist? How can anyone believe in religion when science has neither a need nor a place for God? Is evolution happening today? If God is a God of love, why do we suffer and die?

Evolution teaches us there is no need for God, there is no spiritual realm, and there is no afterlife. According to the theory, spirituality is just an evolutionary trick of the mind!

The Bible gives a very different picture about the nature of these things. At this presentation, you will learn how the scientific evidence, when properly understood, confirms the details of the biblical account. At the same time, we will answer many of the Big Questions.

This event is suitable for children in 3rd grade and up.

### Baby Bottle Boomerang Benefitting Wiregrass Hope Group

**Pick up location: Fellowship Center Foyer**

**Return Date: Sunday, May 29**

Wiregrass Hope Group is one of our Community Ministry Partners. They provide free pregnancy resources, free parenting programs, and a free fatherhood program. Their mission is to share the hope of Jesus Christ, promote human life, and care for people through pregnancy resources, biblical counseling, and relationship education. Grab a bottle today and fill it with your loose change as a way to support this ministry.

### Mission Trip Opportunity

**Portland, Oregon | July 9-16, 2022**

The mission team will help with VBS and outreach in church replant. Cost is \$1300. Contact Randy Hunt at [randy@calvarydothan.com](mailto:randy@calvarydothan.com) for more information or to sign up.

### Meals on Wheels Volunteers Needed

Meals on Wheels primarily provides nutritious meals, a quick safety check and much needed human connection to homebound seniors. This support enables them to remain living in their own homes, where they want to be. Volunteers are needed for one day a month for one hour. If you would like to volunteer to help with this program, contact Janine Ganter at 334-718-3475.

### Cake + Dessert Auction | May 22

Join us after worship on May 22 in the ROC for an auction to raise funds for student camp this summer. If you would like to donate a homemade cake or dessert, please call the church office or email [brooke@calvarydothan.com](mailto:brooke@calvarydothan.com).

### Vacation Bible School

**June 13-17 | 8:30am-Noon | Completed Kindergarten through 5th Grade**

Have you registered for VBS this summer? If not, head on over to our website and get your child registered today, don’t delay!

Our volunteer team is almost complete, but we still have a few key leader positions to fill in 1st and 2nd Grades. Would you consider being on our VBS team this summer? If you’re interested, please let us know. Contact Zach Daniels, [zach@calvarydothan.com](mailto:zach@calvarydothan.com) or text 334.733.6326.

### VBS Leader Training | May 22 | 5pm | Kids Worship Room

Signed up as a leader at VBS? This is a mandatory meeting required for all VBS leaders. Make plans to join us and get ready to lead well at VBS this summer!

### Calling all ARTISTS!

The theme for VBS this year lends itself to creativity and art! We’d love to decorate by displaying artwork throughout our entire campus. If you’re an artist, would you consider bringing your work to us or making new pieces that can be displayed during the week of VBS? If so, please bring your artwork to the Church Office at your convenience during the work week, or to the Children’s Building on Sunday morning or Wednesday night.

The following is an excerpt from: **Four Encouraging Facts About Our God and Mission** by John Piper

#### 1. God Makes Persecution Serve Mission

Up until now in the book of Acts all the ministry has taken place in Jerusalem. No one had moved out to Judea and Samaria. But Jesus had said in Acts 1:8 that the coming of the Holy Spirit was to empower missions in Jerusalem and beyond. “You shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria and to the end of the earth.”

Now Acts 8:1 uses exactly those two unreached areas in that order: “. . . they were all scattered throughout the region of Judea and Samaria.”

#### 2. Stephen Is Honored, Not Blamed

The persecution in Jerusalem started because of Stephen. That’s clear here; and it’s clear in Acts 11:19 — “the persecution that arose over Stephen.”

... when Luke tells God’s version of the story, Stephen is a man full of grace and power (Acts 6:8). When he spoke his final words that enraged the council, Luke says he was filled with the Holy Spirit (Acts 7:55). And here in Acts 8:2 Luke says that “devout men buried Stephen, and made great lamentation over him.” Stephen is honored not blamed for the persecution—at least by devout men.

#### 3. Adversaries Can Become Advocates

Verse 3: “But Saul was ravaging the church, and entering house after house, he dragged off men and women and committed them to prison.” This Saul is the one who would be dramatically converted and become the best friend and advocate Christianity ever had.

#### 4. The Word of God Is Good News and Brings Joy

The paragraph that begins with verse 4 ends with verse 8. Verse 4 says that the scattered, persecuted Christians preached the Word wherever they went. They announced the very Word that brought persecution as good news (*euangelizomai*). And verse 8 confirms that it was good news because it says, “So there was much joy in that city.” The Word that brings persecution also brings joy — and the joy it brings is so much greater and longer than the trouble it brings that the trade-off is worth it.

#### Conclusion:

I urge you this morning to put your faith in Jesus Christ. Because if you do then all these reasons for encouragement become very personally true for you and not just generally true.

1. God makes persecution serve the unstoppable mission of the church—your mission, your ministry.

2. If your faithfulness brings trouble to the church (like Stephen’s did), you will be honored and not blamed—at least by the godly.

3. Your worst critics can become your precious comrades by the power of Christ’s converting grace.

4. And the very Word—the gospel—that brings persecution sometimes, brings joy always and forever.

You can find the entire article here: <https://www.desiringgod.org/messages/spreading-power-through-persecution>. It’s worth the read!

#### I WOULD LIKE MORE INFORMATION ABOUT:

#### My Decision Today:

I trusted Jesus as Savior.

I’d like to join Calvary Baptist Church.

I believe God is calling me into ministry/mission.

Please have a pastor or elder contact me.

If you would like to speak with someone about one of the items noted above, please visit the Next Steps Kiosk before you leave today.

#### PRAYER REQUESTS:

Pastors & Prayer Team Only

Churchwide

## Connect Card

May 15, 2022

Please complete this tab, tear it off and drop it in an offering plate.

- Please update my information
- Please contact me about membership

### I am a:

- First Time Guest
- Guest
- Member

Name

Address

City

State/Zip

- Male
- Female

- Married
- Single

Birthdate (mm/dd/yy)

Home Phone

Cell Phone

Spouse

Spouse's Birthdate (mm/dd/yy)

### Children:

Name / Date of Birth

Please complete the additional information on the back of this tab, if applicable.

May 15, 2022



### I'm New Here

To fill out a digital Connect Card or learn more about Calvary, please use your smartphone camera to scan the QR Code.

### How to Become a Christian

Want more information about how to become a Christian? Go to [calvarydothan.com/become-a-christian/](http://calvarydothan.com/become-a-christian/).

If you would like to view a pdf of today's sermon notes, go to [calvarydothan.com/podcast](http://calvarydothan.com/podcast) or use Calvary's MobileMission app.

 [calvarydothan.com](http://calvarydothan.com)

 @calvarydothan

 @calvarydothan

 /calvarydothan



901 Montezuma Avenue  
Dothan, AL 36303  
Church Office 334.792.5159  
Weekday 334.793.9898

### FIRST TIME GUEST?

We're so glad you've joined us for worship today and would love to be able to share more with you about our church. Please fill out the Connect Card to the left and place it in one of the offering plates when they are passed. Be sure to stop by our Next Steps kiosk after the service for a gift from us!

### THE PEOPLE CAME...

May 8

Life Groups: 486  
10:00 Worship: 645  
Hispanic Church: 122  
Grace City Church (NY): 30

### THE PEOPLE GAVE...

General Fund

Given May 8: \$62,249  
Y-T-D Budget  
Surplus (Deficit): \$18,817.48  
Annie Armstrong: \$61,022

### DAILY SCRIPTURE READING

Sunday, May 15:

Ex 39, Jn 18, Prv 15, Phil 2

Monday, May 16:

Ex 40, Jn 19, Prv 16, Phil 3

Tuesday, May 17:

Lev 1, Jn 20, Prv 17, Phil 4

Wednesday, May 18:

Lev 2-3, Jn 21, Prv 18, Col 1

Thursday, May 19:

Lev 4, Ps 1-2, Prv 19, Col 2

Friday, May 20:

Lev 5, Ps 3-4, Prv 20, Col 3

Saturday, May 21:

Lev 6, Ps 5-6, Prv 21, Col 4

### Midweek Schedule

5:15pm Midweek Meal, Fellowship Center

6:00pm Midweek Worship, Sanctuary  
Preschool, Birth-K5, Preschool Building

Children, Grades 1-5, ROC  
Students, Grades 6-12, Student Room

7:00pm Adult Choir

### 4 Ways to Give

- Give online by using the MobileMission app for Apple or Android or go to [calvarydothan.com/GiveOnline](http://calvarydothan.com/GiveOnline).
- On Sundays, drop in the offering plate or in the collection boxes near the Fellowship Center exit doors
- Mail to 901 Montezuma Avenue, Dothan, AL 36303
- Bring to the church office, M-F, 8am-12noon & 1-4:30pm

### Ministry Staff

Paul Thompson.....Senior Pastor  
Charles Uptain.....Executive Pastor  
Dan Tankersley.....Discipleship  
Patrick Lima.....Worship  
Tommy Perry.....Community

### STAFF ON CALL

Sunday, May 15:

Joyce Alexander | 334-798-4791

Saturday, May 21:

Dan Tankersley | 334-655-8765

Sunday, May 22:

Dan Tankersley | 334-655-8765

### SERMON SCHEDULE

Wednesday, May 18 | 6pm

Genesis: The Blessing of Joseph

Genesis 48

Message by Paul Thompson

Sunday, May 22 | 10:00am

Acts: Divine Appointments

Acts 8:26-40

Message by Paul Thompson

Wednesday, May 25 | 6pm

Genesis: The Fates of the 12 Tribes

Genesis 49:1-27

Message by Paul Thompson

Sunday, May 29 | 10:00am

Acts: The Amazong Salvation of Saul

Acts 9:1-31

Message by Tommy Perry

### Sunday Morning Schedule

8:00am Call to Prayer, Sanctuary

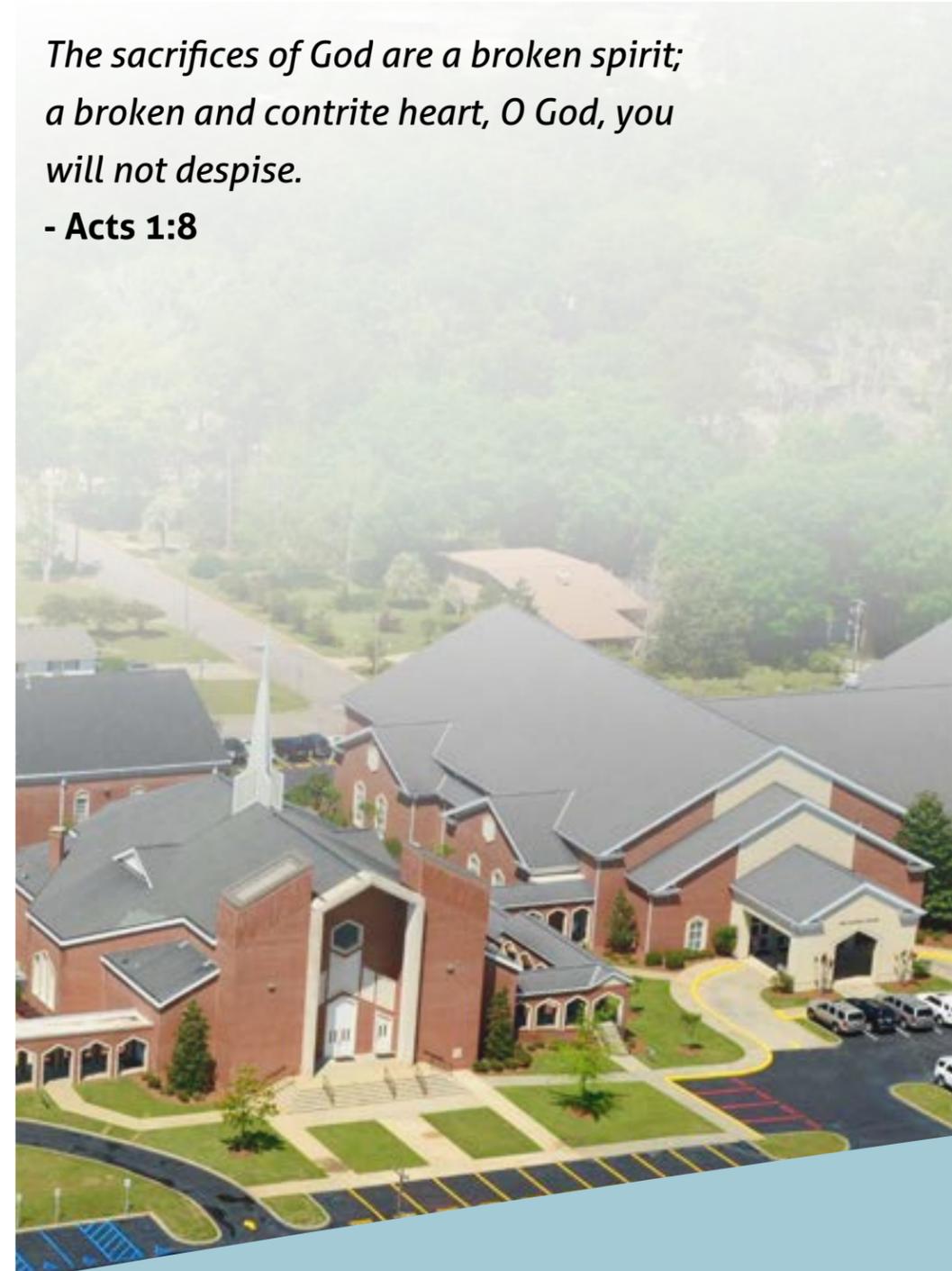
8:30am Life Group

10:00am Worship, Fellowship Center  
Kid's Worship, Grades 1-5,  
Chapel (except 1st Sunday)

11:00am Worship Broadcast on JoyFM  
94.3/96.1 with a 1 wk delay.

*The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit;  
a broken and contrite heart, O God, you  
will not despise.*

**- Acts 1:8**



WELCOME TO  
**Calvary**  
BAPTIST CHURCH