



Discussion Questions for Acts 8 “Scattered Witnesses”  
Week of November 15<sup>th</sup> - 21<sup>st</sup>, 2009

**Warm Up** Have you ever had an unexpected change of plans that turned out for the better?

**Questions for Interaction**

- Because of this persecution, many of the followers of Christ were “scattered throughout Judea and Samaria.” Philip is one of the believers who left Jerusalem after Stephen’s death as a martyr (**Acts 8:1-3**). Some might view this as cowardice on Philip’s part; that he lacked faith and was running from a fight. Others may say that Philip was blessed with an awareness of the larger battle. Read **Matt 5: 38-41** and **Romans 12: 17-21**. Have there been times in your life where you walked away from conflict and God used the situation for His glory?
- The persecution suffered after Stephen’s stoning radically changed Philip’s ministry and pushed him beyond Jerusalem. He traveled far and wide as a witness to Jesus, boldly proclaiming salvation through faith in Christ. Philip did not leave his ministry, God merely refocused Philip’s ministry to achieve the mission God set out in **Matt 28:16-20** and **Acts 1:8**. Have you ever been in a situation where you sensed God was closing doors to lead you to new ministry opportunities?
- Read **Acts 8:14-17**. Why didn’t the Holy Spirit fall *immediately* fall upon the new Christians in Samaria once they were baptized into the name of the Lord Jesus? What is the significance of the apostles laying their hands upon them to receive the Holy Spirit? What place does laying on of hands have today? (See also **Acts 9:17**, **1 Tim. 4:14**, and **2 Tim. 1:6**)
- Clearly God had arranged this meeting between Philip and the Ethiopian; this is a glorious example of how God opens doors for us to share our faith. *God wouldn’t have directed Philip unless God had already arranged an open door.* One of our greatest jobs in preaching the gospel is to simply pray for open doors. Then, having prayed for open doors, we must keep alert to the opportunities God presents. What open doors are there in your life right now? Share how you feel God may be asking you to move in them.

**Wrap Up** Share with each other where you believe God may be leading you in new ministry opportunities. *Can you help one another with their dreams?* Pray for each other and pray for God’s leading on how you might be able to serve God together.