

When the wind blows

Acts 8:1-25

Slides from John Percival's sermon at the morning service
Sunday 8th March 2026



1. The church scattered (v1-4)

Acts 8v1

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.

Acts 8v4

Those who had been scattered preached the word wherever they went.

Acts 26v10

On the authority of the chief priests, I put many of the Lord's people in prison, and when they were put to death, I cast my vote against them.

Acts 8v4

Those who had been scattered preached the word wherever they went.







Philippians 1v12-14

¹² Now I want you to know, brothers and sisters, that what has happened to me has actually served to advance the gospel. ¹³ As a result, it has become clear throughout the whole palace guard and to everyone else that I am in chains for Christ. ¹⁴ And because of my chains, most of the brothers and sisters have become confident in the Lord and dare all the more to proclaim the gospel without fear.

2. The church united (v14-17)

Acts 8v14-17

¹⁴ When the apostles in Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to Samaria. ¹⁵ When they arrived, they prayed for the new believers there that they might receive the Holy Spirit, ¹⁶ because the Holy Spirit had not yet come on any of them; they had simply been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. ¹⁷ Then Peter and John placed their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

“With such a background, it was appropriate for the Jerusalem leaders to have a big part in blessing the new Samaritan Christians. It helped them begin their life as Christians with an attitude of warm love toward their traditional enemies.”

Ajith Fernando



3. The church warned (v9-13, 18-24)

Acts 8v10

and all the people, both high and low, gave him their attention and exclaimed, “This man is rightly called the Great Power of God.”

Acts 8v13

Simon himself believed and was baptized. And he followed Philip everywhere, astonished by the great signs and miracles he saw.

Simony = using money to gain power or influence
in the church