



## OVERCOMING THE POWERS OF DARKNESS

Acts 8:1-25 // Dr. Ron Jones

A major shift takes place in Acts chapter 8. The death of Stephen gives way to intense persecution that scatters believers throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria (Acts 1:8). The gospel spreads beyond Jerusalem as the powers of darkness emerge in three ways.

1.

*And Saul approved of his execution. ... But Saul was ravaging the church, and entering house to house, he dragged off men and women and committed them to prison. ACTS 8:1-3 ESV; 1 TIMOTHY 1:12-13*

*I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who has strengthened me, because He considered me faithful, putting me into service, <sup>13</sup> even though I was formerly a blasphemer and a persecutor and a violent aggressor. Yet I was shown mercy because I acted ignorantly in unbelief. 1 TIMOTHY 1:12-13 NAS*

2.

*Now those who were scattered went about preaching the word. <sup>5</sup> Philip went down to the city of Samaria and proclaimed to them the Christ. ... <sup>7</sup> For unclean spirits, crying out with a loud voice, came out of many who had them. ACTS 8:4-8  
ESV*

The gospel of Jesus Christ is the antidote to \_\_\_\_\_.

3.

*But there was a man named Simon, who had previously practiced magic in the city and amazed the people of Samaria, saying that he himself was somebody great. ACTS 8:9-25*

Phony ministers \_\_\_\_\_ themselves above the ministry.

## **Lessons from the Dark Side**

1. Keep \_\_\_\_\_ in the power of the Holy Spirit.

*Now those who were scattered went about preaching the word. ACTS 8:4*

2. Remain \_\_\_\_\_ to what God is doing.

ACTS 8:14-17

3. Expose \_\_\_\_\_ of faith.

ACTS 8:18-24; JAMES 2:19

