

The Scattered/Spreading Church #7
“Passion”

Text: Acts 8:1-4.

Intro: The Church-ekklesia, the word translated "church" has the literal meaning of people called out and called together. It's a mistake to view Church as only a place or building. God's people are the church when gathering for singing, praying, ministry of the word and fellowship. It is a mistake to think the worship life of the church is a weekend or weekday focused event. God's people are meant to gather and scatter.

- Scattered/spreading-- to extend over a wider range, or cause something to cover a wider range than before. To make something widely known.
 - Passion (basic understanding): Intense or overpowering emotion such as love, joy, hatred, or anger; strong sexual desire and excitement; a strong liking or enthusiasm for a subject or activity and a sudden outburst of an emotion such as rage, hatred, or jealousy (Encarta Dictionary)
 - Acts 14:15; Jam.5:17 passions—share the same human feelings, affections and emotions (KJV, nature NKJV and NASB).
 - Original meaning of *passion*: “The word ‘passion’ first surfaced in the twelfth century. Coined by Christian scholars, it means to suffer. In its purest sense it describes the willing suffering of Christ. Passion doesn’t mean just suffering for suffering’s sake; it must be pure and willing suffering. Both passion and path have similar roots: the word “path” is a suffix that means suffering from. Doctors are called pathologists. They study the illnesses and diseases that humans suffer. The link between suffering, or passion, and sacrifice. “The word ‘sacrifice’ comes from the Latin ‘sacra,’ which means sacred, and ‘fice,’ which means to perform. To sacrifice is to perform the sacred.” At its essence, passion’ is sacred suffering. It has become popular to define passion as deep or romantic love; the real meaning is being willing to suffer for what you love. When we discover what we are willing to pay a price for, we demonstrate our passion. (Adapted from *Aspire: Discovering Your Purpose through the Power of Words*. Kindle, pp. 71-72).
 - Passion in reference to Jesus Christ—Acts 1:3. Pascho {pas'-kho} including the forms (patho {path'-o} and pentho {pen'-tho}) to be affected or have been affected, to feel, have a sensible experience (#3958 Strong's).
1. Persecutions designed to poison or paralyze passion—Acts 8:1ff.
 - Paralyze: bring (a system, place, or organization) to a standstill by causing disruption or chaos.
 - a. The opposite occurred—propelled (pushed further)-place to place proclaiming the word)—v4.
 - b. There’s a distinction between a strong interest and compelling passion. They cared so much about a goal and were willing to suffer for it.
 2. Passionate protagonist against the church’s passion—Acts 8:3, 9:1ff.
 - Protagonist: an advocate or champion of a particular cause or idea.
 - a. Passion changed after an encounter with the Lord Jesus—Acts 9:16; Phil.3:10.
 3. Passion participator—I Pet.4:12-13.
 - a. Don’t be surprised or amazed and view suffering as something foreign.
 - b. Willingly suffer for whom you love, Jesus Christ.