



the early  
CHURCH

ACTS 8:1-8



# Born and Raised in Adversity



- ▶ Founder and King murdered 7 weeks before the beginning and launch
  - 3,000 souls added to the church (2:41)
- ▶ Problem of need for thousands of traveling Jews (2:45)
- ▶ Peter and John arrested and threatened (4:1-22)
  - Number increases to 5,000 men (4:4)

# Born and Raised in **Adversity**

A lighthouse with a red lantern room stands on a dark, rocky island. The base of the lighthouse is surrounded by turbulent, white-capped waves crashing against the rocks. The sky is overcast and grey, creating a somber and dramatic atmosphere.

- ▶ **Ananias and Sapphira's deception (5:1-11)**
  - **Believers increasingly added, multitudes of men and women (5:14)**



# Born and Raised in Adversity

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- ▶ Apostles arrested, threatened and beaten (5:17-40)
- ▶ Grecian widows neglected (6:1-7)
- ▶ Stephen arrested and murdered (6:8 – 7:60)
- ▶ Great persecution against the church (8:1-3)
- ▶ Church scattered (8:4)
  - Multitudes converted in Samaria (8:6)

# Born and Raised in Adversity

A lighthouse with a red lantern room stands on a dark, rocky island. The base of the lighthouse is surrounded by white, crashing waves. The sky is a mix of grey and blue, suggesting an overcast or stormy day.

- ▶ Simon offers Peter a bribe (8:14-25)
  - Saul converted (9:1-30)
  - Church at peace, edified, multiplied (9:31)
  - Cornelius converted (10:1 – 11:18)
- Jews in Jerusalem contend with Peter over preaching to a Gentile (11:2)
  - Church established in Antioch (11:19-26)



# Born and Raised in **Adversity**

A lighthouse with a red lantern room stands on a dark, rocky island. The base of the lighthouse is surrounded by white, foamy waves crashing against the rocks. The sky is a mix of grey and blue, suggesting a storm or a difficult time. The overall mood is one of resilience and guidance through adversity.

- ▶ **Famine in Judea (11:27-30)**
- ▶ **Herod kills James and arrests Peter (12:1-19)**
  - **The Word grew and multiplied (12:24)**
- ▶ **Paul chased out of Iconium and stoned at Lystra (14:1-20)**
  - **Appointed elders in every church (14:23)**

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- ▶ Division over circumcision (15:1)
  - Gentiles rejoice over resolution (15:31)
  - Lydia converted (16:11-15)
- ▶ Paul and Silas beaten and imprisoned in Philippi (16:16)
  - Philippian Jailor converted (16:25-34)



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- ▶ Paul chased out of Thessalonica and Berea (17:1-15)
- ▶ Demetrius leads a riot against Paul in Ephesus (19:21-41)
- ▶ Paul arrested in Jerusalem (21:26-36)
- ▶ Attempted lynching of Paul (23:11-22)
- ▶ Paul shipwrecked (27:1-44)





# the early CHURCH

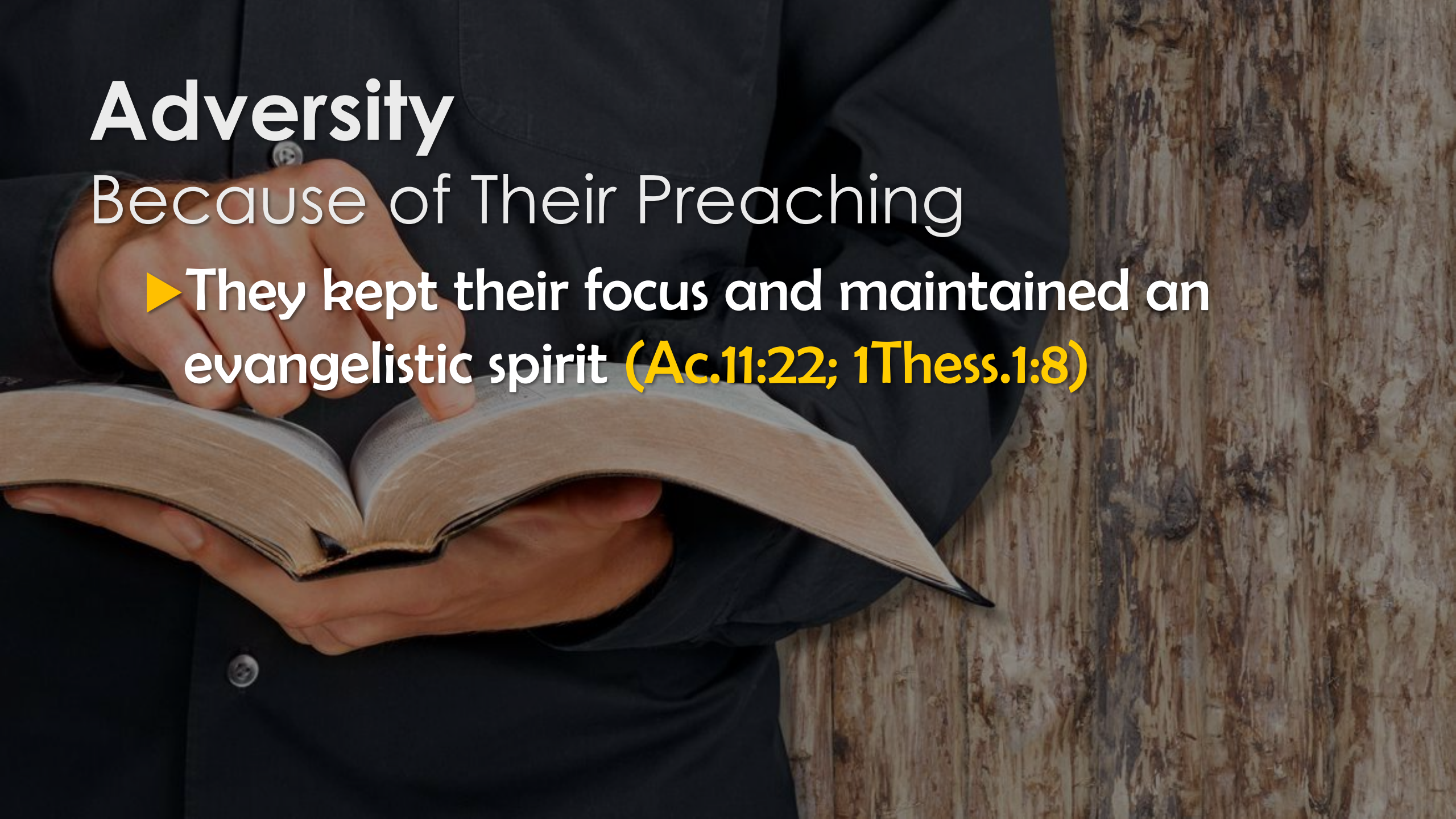
Birth and Growth in Adversity

ACTS 8:1-8

# Adversity

Because of Their Preaching

- ▶ They kept their focus and maintained an evangelistic spirit (**Ac.11:22; 1Thess.1:8**)





# Adversity

## Because of Their Preaching

▶ They kept their focus and maintained an evangelistic spirit  
(Ac.11:22; 1Thess.1:8)

▶ They prayed for more boldness (Ac.4:29)



# Adversity

## Because of Their Preaching

- ▶ They kept their focus and maintained an evangelistic spirit (Ac.11:22; 1Thess.1:8)
- ▶ They prayed for more boldness (Ac.4:29)
- ▶ They *kept their eye on the ball* – Evangelism distracts us from our own suffering! (Ac.5:40-42; 20:22-24)



# Adversity

## Church Problems

- ▶ They didn't avoid them but addressed them!
  - Church discipline (Ac.5:1-11; 1Cor.5:1-13)
  - Grecian Widows (Ac.6:1-7)
  - Doctrinal Issues (Ac.15:1-29; 2Cor.10:3-5)
  - Warned of Dangers (1Tim.4:1-6)

# Adversity of Suffering

- ▶ They manifest joy in the midst of suffering
  - Apostles after arrest and beating (Ac.5:41)
  - Paul and Silas in prison (Ac.16:23-25)
  - They had already “counted all things loss” (Phil. 3:7-8, 10-11, 15-21)



# Adversity of Poverty

- ▶ They shared with and were a “part of” one another
  - The beginning of the church (Ac.2:45)
  - “one heart and one soul” (Ac.4:32-37)
  - Gentiles sharing with Jews (Ac.11:27-30)
  - “companions” (Heb.10:33-34) (Eph.4:16)

# The Early Church

## Birth and Growth In Adversity

- They Kept Their Focus – Evangelism
- They Didn't Avoid Church Problems – They Addressed Them!
- They Manifest Joy In The Midst of Suffering
- They Were A “Part Of” One Another





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**CHURCH**

Birth and Growth in Adversity

ACTS 8:1-8