



the early
CHURCH

ACTS 8:1-8

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 overcast and grey.

- ▶ 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)



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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)
- ▶ 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

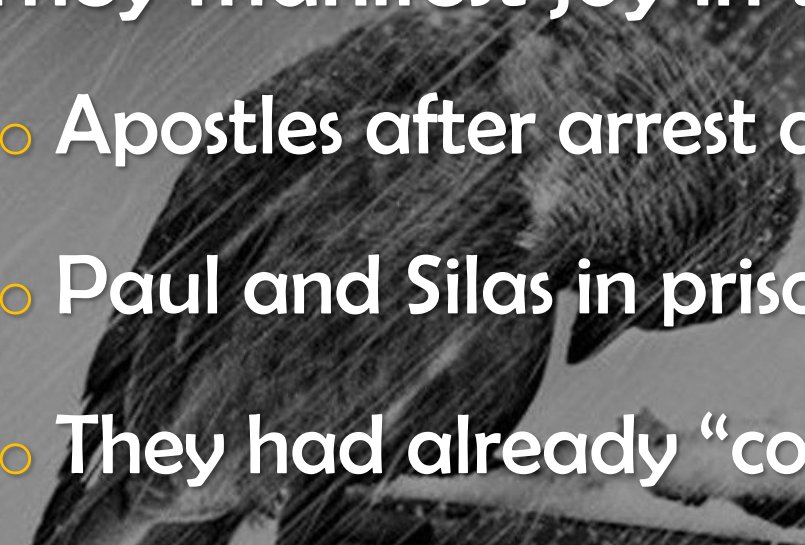
Church Problems

- ▶ 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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Birth and Growth in Adversity

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