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**Theme:** Do Not Be Afraid - Step Out!

**Scripture:** Acts 8:4 “Those who had been scattered preached the word wherever they went.”

**A Thought:** Let's put the above scripture into historical perspective. The followers of The Way were getting their “way” by presenting the truth of Christ. The higher-ups of the Jewish leadership did not look too kindly on these folks. Especially when they noticed the loving fellowship among the believers. Apparently they were concerned and jealous of the continuous growth of the movement. So they took a stand and put their sandals down and demanded that the first generation of Christians halt the spreading of the Gospel. Our Christian ancestors shouldered daily oppression and persecution for decades. We must note it was during this time that before his encounter with the Lord (on the road to Damascus) Saul (Paul) participated in a “rock” concert and the Christian world experienced its first martyr...Stephen. To save themselves the followers of The Way, disciples, Apostles and new converts left Jerusalem. They fled to cities throughout Judea and Samaria. They traveled many miles and along the way Philip and the rag-tag Christians went to work proclaiming the name of Christ, curing folks from impure spirits and healing the sick. The result....verse Acts 8:8:8 tells it all....“So there was great JOY in that city.” Way before Jerusalem was sacked the new born Christians traveled outside the walls of Jerusalem. The persecution turned out to be a blessing. The irony: Samaritans and others were the beneficiaries of receiving the Word. Hence, these brave souls claimed a spiritual zeal that only exists when you know the word and you let the Holy Spirit work in your life even under dire circumstances. In the past and present when I read and study Acts 8:4 I sense a mild form of spiritual inadequacy....bluntly a spiritual vacuum. What courage! I want some of that - to step out and preach the word by presenting the Truth of Christ. Now....what are your thoughts? Write them down.

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**Talk to yourself:**

- What steps have you taken to prepare yourself to share the gospel?
- How confident are you in sharing the gospel?
- In sharing the gospel - what did you learn from the experience?
- You accepted the challenge and then you demurred - why?
- Polls have shown that very few of us share the word with others - your thoughts?

**Scriptures to read:**

- Acts 8:1-40; Acts 2:42-47; Acts 9:1-42; 2 Timothy 1:7-11; Matthew 10:16-42

**Quote:**

“There is nothing anybody else can do that can stop God from using us. We can turn everything into a testimony.”

**Bottom Line:**

We must be prepared to share the word even if we are afraid and it takes us out of our comfort zone. Jesus tells us in Matthew 10:26-27 (NIV) *“So do not be afraid of them, for there is nothing concealed that will not be disclosed or hidden that will not be made known. What I tell you in the dark, speak in the daylight; what is whispered in your ear, proclaim from the roofs.”* How many opportunities have we lost by not presenting the truth of Christ to a relative, friend and or stranger? Only to find out later that the person or persons in question died or struggles with personal issues and or is fighting off the will of Satan. We must be inclusive and not exclusive in our commitment to share the gospel. Our daily actions and speech tethered together will speak volumes. In a world of competing beliefs Corrie ten Boom’s appeal is very relevant today. Gents, take heed....”We can turn everything into a testimony.”

**NOW.....THAT’S THE BOTTOM LINE.**

Spiritual Dabbler, Your bro, Ray

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