

OUR IMPACT

God can use every follower to impact the world in powerful ways.

(Acts 8:1-3) Saul agreed with putting him to death. On that day a severe persecution broke out against the church in Jerusalem, and all except the apostles were scattered throughout the land of Judea and Samaria. But devout men buried Stephen and mourned deeply over him. Saul, however, was ravaging the church, and he would enter house after house, drag off men and women, and put them in prison.

1. GALVANIZING Impact

(2) Devout men buried Stephen and mourned deeply over him.

- A. Galvanized in courage.
- B. Galvanized in conviction.

2. EXPANDING Impact

- A. Great impact often begins with heartbreak.

(1b) On that day a severe persecution broke out against the church in Jerusalem, and all except the apostles were scattered throughout the land of Judea and Samaria.

[They] were scattered throughout the land of JUDEA AND SAMARIA.

(1:8) You will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be My witnesses in Jerusalem, in all JUDEA AND SAMARIA, and to the ends of the earth.

- B. Great impact often expands far beyond us.

3. TRANSFORMING Impact

(8:1) Saul agreed with putting him to death

(6:15) The Sanhedrin looked intently at (Stephen) and saw that his face was like the face of an angel.

- A. Transformed individuals often start out hard.

(3) Saul... was ravaging the church, and he would enter house after house, drag off men and women, and put them in prison.

- B. Transformed individuals often start out mean.
- C. Transformed individuals may take years to turn.

(22:19-20) "Lord... when the blood of Your witness Stephen was being shed, I myself was standing by and approving, and I guarded the clothes of those who killed him." "Then He said to me, 'Go, because I will send you far away to the Gentiles.'"