

Persecution or Propulsion – Discerning Kingdom Strategy

Text – Acts 8:1–4

Introduction

Have you ever noticed – a situation that looked like a setback in the natural – often turns out to be a setup in the Spirit? ... Or what may feel like spiritual opposition – can actually be a Kingdom movement towards advancement? ... The early church discovered these truths in Acts chapter eight ... What looked like a wave of persecution – was really the spark of divine propulsion ... The very pressure that tried to silence them – became the driving force that scattered them ... This propulsion allowed them to carry the fire of the Kingdom farther than they could have ever imagined.

We tend to equate stability with safety – but the Kingdom can only expand through movement ... What feels like stress to the flesh – often means alignment is forming with the Spirit ... The Spirit's intent isn't to make us feel comfortable – He's trying to make us effective ... See, the Kingdom is about movement and is never stagnant ... So when the pressures of the world fall upon us – it's not punishment – it's propulsion ... The very ground that's trembling under you – may be the platform God is building – for the purpose of sending you further than you've ever gone before.

Catch this – what the Spirit is saying to the ekklesia in this hour is this ... Stop persevering persecution as destruction – refocus and start viewing it as divine propulsion ... This is not the time to fight – it is the time to discern ... Not the time to fear – but the time to flow.

And that's exactly what we discover in Acts 8 – the first four verses ... The enemy launched a severe attack against the ekklesia – but God had other plans ... What many would view as religious persecution – God reveals as kingdom strategy.

Divine Strategy – Acts 8:1

The text tells us – “A great wave of persecution began that day, sweeping over the church in Jerusalem; and all the believers except the apostles were scattered through the regions of Judea and Samaria” ... Catch this as we will soon discover - - What appeared to be chaos was actually a Kingdom move in disguise ... The enemy was striking – but the King would soon be sending ... The church may have thought they were losing ground – but the Kingdom would soon be taking territory.

We must learn to view persecution – with the eyes of the Spirit ... When the enemy presses in – it’s not a sign that he’s strong – it’s proof that something is stirring in the spirit ... The enemy always attacks the plans of God – so when God is up to something – the enemy tried to preempt it – before it can begin ... So, when persecution arises – it means purpose has been set in motion.

Never forget this spiritual truth – satan is already defeated – but not just him – all powers and principalities ... That happened when Jesus died on the Cross and rose from the dead ...

Colossians 2:15 Passion Translation

“Then Jesus made a public spectacle of all the powers and principalities of darkness, *(spiritual rulers and authorities - - those supernatural forces of evil operating against us)* stripping away from them every weapon and all their spiritual authority and power to accuse us. And by the power of the cross, Jesus led them around as prisoners in a procession of triumph. He was not their prisoner; they were His!”

2Cor. 2:11 reminds us - - “for we are not ignorant of his schemes – we are familiar with how he operates.” ... How does the enemy operate? ... They try to mess with your head ... They know very well Proverbs 23:7 which states - - *As a man thinks in his heart, so is he* ... So the enemy will lie to you and try to convince you that the lie is truth ... What the enemy is revealing maybe reality – as we see here in our text – the church was experiencing persecution – but the lie is – the kingdom of light is losing and the kingdom of darkness is winning ... A kainos being

should never view persecution as punishment – it needs to be viewed as preparation ... What feels like pressure in the natural – is often divine guidance in the spiritual.

So, when persecution arises – don't curse it – don't automatically fight it – discern it ... The Spirit is saying – look at what is happening from my perspective – not yours ... What you're calling an attack might actually be a sending ... What you're calling a loss might actually be a launch.

Spiritual Nugget

When you live from Oneness as a kainos being – you stop fearing storms and start discerning strategy ... Because in that place of union you begin to see clearly – that the pressure isn't meant to crush you – it's meant to propel you ... It comes to confirm and expand what is already on the inside ... This is exactly what Stephen and the early believers discovered ... What began as persecution became the setup for transformation.

Divine Setup and Shift – Acts 8:3

“But Saul was going everywhere to destroy the church. He went from house to house, dragging out both men and women to throw them into prison.”

To the natural eye – Saul was the enemy – but to the Spirit – he was the setup ... What the church feared – God was forming ... What they prayed against – the Kingdom was preparing ... Sometimes what looks like an enemy is actually the preparation of a divine instrument.

Catch this - - Not every enemy is demonic ... Some are divine setups in disguise ... Saul wasn't possessed – he was passionate without revelation ... His zeal was real – but his direction was wrong ... The Kingdom wasn't intimidated by Saul's actions – it was positioning him for transformation.

This is where personal discernment is critical ... Not all opposition is the same – and not every battle you face is meant to be fought ... There is resistant opposition – and there is redeemable

opposition – so let’s break this down ... Resistant opposition will cause your spirit – not your flesh – to feel agitation ... Your spirit will have no peace – only frustration ... It feels like inner disharmony – like something pulling you out of alignment with the Spirit ... That’s when the Spirit is saying – stand firm and resist ... This is where James 4:7 comes into play - - “**Now acquaint yourselves with the authority of God. Take a firm stand against the Accuser and his attempts to unsettle you, and you will see him retreat to his own defeat.**” (Mirror)

This is why personal discernment is paramount – because redeemable opposition feels different in your spirit ... When you quiet yourself before the Lord – which is essential in order to discern properly – even in the pressure of the moment – you will feel at peace ... Compassion will arise rather than agitation ... This is where the Spirit is softly saying – pray – don’t fight ... Intercede on their behalf – don’t react out of anger ... Because what you’re facing isn’t resistance – it’s transformation in progress ... God is working beneath the surface and the person doesn’t know how to react – other than lashing out in a natural, fleshly manner.

Let’s be honest ... This is where most of us completely blow it ... We immediately shift into fight mode when opposition arises – why? ... Because we live life more as a human being – than we do as a kainos being ... Now catch this – a kainos being doesn’t make decisions as a result of fleshly emotions – they move by spiritual resonance ... They listen for and sense for the inner harmony and tone of peace ... They trust the still voice of the Kingdom inside more than the loud noise of the world outside.

A kainos being doesn’t react to every Saul – they discern which ones God is preparing for transformation ... They don’t waste energy fighting what God intends to redeem ... They hold their peace – they stay in rhythm with the Spirit – and they allow divine timing to do the work that human striving never could.

Spiritual Nugget

A kainos being doesn’t see enemies – they see opportunities for Kingdom manifestation ... They understand that every Saul they face – may carry a Paul within them – waiting to be awakened by love – not defeated by argument ... True discernment doesn’t just see persecution

– it sees potential ... It doesn't just identify what's wrong – it recognizes what the Kingdom can make right ... When you live from that kind of sight – even your greatest opposition becomes the soil for divine transformation ... Now catch what happens in the next verse. The persecution that was meant to crush the church – scattered the carriers of the Kingdom – turning resistance into expansion.

Divine Send and Expansion – Acts 8:4

Our text says – “those who were scattered went everywhere preaching the Word” ... Notice this – it wasn't the apostles – it wasn't the fivefold evangelists – it was ordinary believers carrying extraordinary fire ... They didn't have titles – but they had Presence ... The same Spirit that fell in the upper room – was now flowing through each believer ... Many of them had come to Jerusalem for Pentecost – and because of their experience – they decided to stay ... But when persecution came – they simply went home – and but the Kingdom went with them.

The scattering wasn't a setback – it was the strategy ... God didn't send them to hide – He sent them to host His presence in new territories ... The enemy thought he was breaking the church apart – but in truth – the Kingdom was multiplying through every believer who carried the fire ... The Gospel didn't weaken under pressure – it spread under persecution ... What the enemy meant for destruction – became the catalyst for expansion.

But here's where our modern church culture twisted the story. Over time – the church stopped scattering and started gathering ... We turned sending into staffing ... We built systems instead of sons ... We turned worship into entertainment ... We created programs instead of presence ... We trained people to attend rather than to awaken ... We've built mega-churches that collect people rather than forming carriers to expand His Kingdom ... The model of the institutional church has taught believers to serve inside walls – rather than to overflow beyond the walls ... In doing so – we've confused internal activity with external advancement.

I'm sure you know this – as I have been declaring this for years ... The fivefold was never meant to perform the work – they are meant to equip the saints to walk out life – as the work ... This means ministry isn't what we do – it is who we are ... The mark of a kainos being isn't that they volunteer for a program – it is that they live as the program ... Ministry is no longer a slot on a calendar you sign up for – it's a lifestyle of divine overflow – lived out daily

When you're truly filled with the Spirit – expansion isn't something you plan – it's something you become ... The early believers didn't start programs – they started movements – because fire travels by contact – not by committees.

Spiritual Nugget

The Kingdom doesn't grow by gathering crowds – it expands by awakening carriers ... Expansion isn't about numbers – it's about resonance ... The true measure of growth isn't how many gather in a building – but by how many have awoken – to who they already are ... When a kainos being walks into a room – the atmosphere shifts – not because of personality – but because of Presence ... That's how the Kingdom advances – not through programs – but through people who live fully conscious of the divine life within them ... So maybe what feels like scattering in your own life – what feels like a breaking apart – isn't loss at all ... Maybe it's your awakening ... Maybe God is using the pressure to conform you – to awaken the fire within you – to remind you that you were never called to sit – but to carry His divine presence everywhere you go.

Takeaway

It is so important that we keep the right perspective when reading Scripture ... If we aren't careful – we'll filter the Word through the culture of the modern church and completely miss what the early ekklesia actually lived ... We've been so conditioned by religious systems that we can no longer see clearly ... We read about revival and think of conferences ... We read about fellowship and think of programs ... We read about boldness and think of leadership titles ... But the early ekklesia wasn't defined by buildings or budgets – it was defined by believers who carried Holy Spirit fire ... They understood that the Kingdom was never about comfort – it

was about transformation ... When we lose that perspective – we end up reading the Bible like spectators instead of participants.

When pressure comes – when resistance rises – when opposition shows up – don't just react ... Stop and discern ... Ask yourself – is this resistant or redeemable? ... What is the Kingdom revealing through this? ... What tone is resonating inside my spirit? ... Is there agitation or peace? ... Because how you respond determines what will unfold ... Persecution is not the end – it's the ignition ... What feels like breaking is often birthing ... Every time the world tries to press you into silence – let that pressure awaken your voice ... Every time fear tries to keep you still – let faith arise to move you forward ... This is not the hour to hide behind programs or personalities – this is the hour for carriers of His Presence to live awakened and aware.

You are not where you are by accident – you are there by assignment ... You are not overlooked – you are positioned ... The same Spirit that scattered the early believers is the same Spirit that is sending you ... You carry the fire of the Kingdom within you – and this week – the Spirit is calling you to release it wherever you go ... Let your words carry life ... Let your actions carry light ... Let your presence shift the atmosphere ... You are the proof that the Kingdom is still advancing – and the world is waiting for the real you to wake up and to show up.

Closing Prayer

Father – we thank You for the power of Your Word and the witness of Your Spirit ... We thank You that persecution cannot stop what You have started – that pressure cannot silence what You have spoken ... Awaken Your ekklesia to see clearly and to stand firmly ... Let discernment rise within us – that we would know the difference between resistance and redemption – between what to fight and what to intercede for.

Teach us to see the strategy in every shaking – to recognize that what feels like breaking is often birthing ... Remind us that the enemy is already defeated – that deception has no power where truth is alive ... We refuse to live as mere humans – we choose to walk as kainos beings – filled

with the fire of the Kingdom – tuned to the voice of the Spirit – aligned with divine purpose ... Scatter us as carriers of Your presence – into homes – workplaces – and communities ... Let the fire that burns within us ignite those around us ... Make us bold – make us discerning – make us unshakable ... And as You send us – let everything we say and do reveal the Kingdom within ... We thank You for the privilege of being chosen for this hour – and we commit ourselves afresh to Your purpose and Your presence. ... In the name of Jesus – Amen.