

The Spirit Beyond Borders

Acts 8:26–40

A. Pentecost Power Breaks Boundaries—Even Through Pain.

1. Pentecost -Acts 2 tells the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, birth of the Church.
2. Tongues of fire, rushing wind, & people hearing the gospel in many languages.
3. But what happened *after* Pentecost?
4. Acts 8 shows the Spirit didn't stay in Jerusalem, continues the story from Acts 2.
5. Today we focus on the themes of the Holy Spirit's movement beyond boundaries, evangelism, and the inclusion of outsiders in God's mission.
6. Pentecost power isn't confined—it moves beyond expected people and places.
7. It spread outward, breaking boundaries—ethnic, geographic, religious, social.
8. Pentecost wasn't a one-day event. It was a launch.
9. Pentecost began with power. It felt like revival, which often leads to resistance.
10. In Acts 7, that resistance takes its deadliest form. (Acts 7:51-8:1)
11. Stephen, a Spirit-filled deacon & bold preacher, is dragged before the council.
12. He speaks truth, about God's faithfulness & Israel's resistance to the Spirit.
13. For that, he's stoned to death.
14. As he dies, he sees the heavens open & Jesus standing at the right hand of God.
15. His last words echo Jesus:
16. *"Lord Jesus, receive my spirit."* then *"Lord, do not hold this sin against them."*
17. It feels like a great tragedy had occurred.
18. But Pentecost teaches us: the Spirit does not stop at suffering. In fact, ...
19. 🕊 Sometimes the Spirit uses persecution as propulsion.

B. From Martyrdom to Mission (Acts 8:1–4)

1. Stephen's death triggers a wave of persecution in Jerusalem, the believers scatter.
2. At first it looks like failure, but this is how Pentecost fire spreads. (Acts 8:4)
3. One of those who scattered was Philip, another deacon like Stephen.
4. Instead of retreating, he advances carrying the gospel to Samaria and beyond.
5. The Spirit takes what the enemy meant for harm and turns it into holy expansion.

C. Philip and the Ethiopian: A Spirit-Led Encounter (Acts 8:26–35)

1. While the church mourns Stephen, the Spirit is on the move.
2. Philip gets a divine message (v26) to go south to a wilderness road.
3. But this is the Pentecost reality: the Spirit moves unexpectedly.
4. No explanation given. Just obedience in action expected.
5. He meets an Ethiopian eunuch, an official in charge of the queen's treasury
6. Someone who, as a eunuch, continually faced exclusion. (Deut. 23:1).
7. He is an outsider in every cultural and religious sense.
8. Philip hears him reading Isaiah 53, but not understanding it.
9. Philip climbs into the chariot & explains how Jesus is the suffering servant.
10. Stephen's death may have seemed like silence.
11. But now the gospel is being proclaimed in the wilderness

12. To a man from the ends of the earth. The gospel breaks barriers.
13. This man—excluded by religious systems—is embraced by the gospel.
14. He is the kind of person Pentecost is for.
15. The Spirit doesn't just move in temples or synagogues.
16. It shows up on dusty roads and rides in royal chariots.
17. The Spirit directs Philip to the margins—just as it directs the Church to go.
18. Where people are spiritually hungry, not just where we're comfortable.
19. The Spirit arranges divine appointments, & empowers & enables witnessing.

D. From Exclusion to Embrace (Acts 8:36–40)

1. As they travelled along the road, they came to some water
2. The eunuch asks, "*What is to prevent me from being baptized?*"
3. This question echoes through the ages. Even into our own lives.
4. What's to prevent someone like *him* from being included?
5. In human terms—plenty. But in the Spirit's movement—*nothing*.
6. He lived his life excluded from the temple, full status, from community.
7. After baptism him & he goes on his way rejoicing, a new disciple, a new witness.
8. That's the Pentecost legacy: joy, inclusion, transformation, and mission.
9. Pentecost means no one is excluded anymore.
10. No one is too far, too broken, or too different to be embraced by God.

E. The Spirit Still Speaks

1. The story of Stephen & Philip shows us what Pentecost looks like *after the fire*:
2. courage in the face of death; scattering becoming sowing.
3. the gospel meeting people in dry places; the outsider being baptized with joy.
4. The Spirit who fell at Pentecost is still moving today:
5. Still sending us to wilderness places and unexpected people
6. Still opening the Scriptures to seekers, breaking barriers that humans set up
7. Still turning outsiders into insiders, still spreading joy through salvation
8. The question for us is this: Are we listening to the Spirit's direction like Philip?
9. Are we welcoming those the Spirit is drawing. even if they don't fit our mould?
10. This Pentecost, may we be a church on fire, not just in worship, but in witness.
11. Where is the Spirit leading us to go? Who is he calling us to reach?
12. Those who don't look or worship like us? Those who've been left out?
13. What persecution, hardship, or loss might God be using?
14. Things to move us out, not shut us down?
15. This Pentecost, don't just celebrate the flame that fell.
16. Follow where the flame leads.
17. Live Pentecost today.
18. Come Holy Spirit!