**5/19/24 Our Witness Must be Like a Tumble Weed That is Set on Fire!**

**Acts 8:1-25**

* Jesus gave us the Great Commission to remind us of what we are to do.
* We are to seek, teach and baptize new believers.
* In our walk of life, we must take up the cross and follow Jesus no matter what the cost!
* The Jewish Christians were faced with circumstances beyond their control.

**Matthew 28:19-20; Acts 1:8; 2:38,41**

**1. Sometimes good comes out of evil intentions.**

* Sometimes it takes a tragedy to bring out the best in us.
* Because of Stephen’s commitment and dedication to Christ, the religious leaders decided the only way to silence him was to stone him to death.
* The religious leaders went against Gamaliel’s advice to leave the disciples alone.
* When persecution swept through the church in Jerusalem, all of the believers except for the apostles fled to the surroundings cities.

**John 10:10; Acts 5:37-42, 8:1-4; Matthew 16:18**

**2. God’s message is unstoppable!**

* Isaiah tells us that God’s Word will go out and not return void and will prosper everywhere it is sent.
* The more those in opposition of God’s Word tried to stop it, the more it spread.
* As the true followers are scattered, the spreading flame of God’s Word brings God's love, grace, and salvation!
* We are to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world.

**Acts 8:5-8; Isaiah 55:11; Matthew 5:13-16; John 13:34-35**

**3. Many want the power but do not have the Spirit.**

* If we do good things and people tell us how good we are, it does not mean the spirit of God is within us.
* Simon the sorcerer was called the Great one and was very influential because of the magic he performed.
* Simon followed Philip, believed his message about Jesus and was baptized, but offered money to buy the power to allow him to share the Holy Spirit.

**Acts 8:9-24**