



————— ∞ *Acts Part Four, Week Four: Suffering and Joy* ∞ —————

Date: October 4th, 2020

Primary Biblical text: Acts 8:1-8

Additional Scripture: 1 Thessalonians 1:6, 2 Corinthians 8:1-2, James 1:2-4, Psalm 16:11

Memory verse: Psalm 16:11 *You will make known to me the path of life; In Your presence is fullness of joy*

————— ∞ *Reflection and Discussion Notes* ∞ —————

† As a follower of Christ, what sustains your faith when you face severe, and sustained, struggle and hardship?

† The outbreak of persecution

† This first church, the *Ekklesia*, was in its essence a COMMUNITY

† And all were scattered (well, almost)

† Saul's persecution

† If you were in the shoes of these Christian refugees, what would this do to your faith?

† The Jerusalem refugees responded as they did because their lives had been TRANSFORMED

† Philip in Samaria

† An inevitable result

† This is an important story, but how does it speak to us, today?

- Reality! God is ALWAYS at work, often in ways we don't expect.
- The miraculous evidence of the Hope of Christ may be YOU
- In all circumstances, our true source of joy is CHRIST