

A dark grey world map is centered in the background of the top half of the slide. The text 'MISSION UNSTOPPABLE' is overlaid on the map. 'MISSION' is in a bright green, bold, sans-serif font, and 'UNSTOPPABLE' is in a white, bold, sans-serif font.

MISSION UNSTOPPABLE

Acts 8v1-25

PERSECUTION BRINGS GROWTH

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“Kill us, torture us, condemn us, grind us to dust, the more you mow us down the more we grow, for the blood of the martyrs is the seed of the church”

Tertullian (2AD)

V1: On that day a great persecution broke out against the church in Jerusalem, and all except the apostles were scattered throughout Judea and Samaria.

V4: Those who had been scattered preached the word wherever they went.

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Persecuted ➡ Scattered ➡ Preached

Acts 1v8: But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”



1) The gospel knows no boundaries

V5: Philip went down to a city in Samaria and proclaimed the Messiah there.

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John 4v9: The Samaritan woman said to him, “You are a Jew and I am a Samaritan woman. How can you ask me for a drink?” (For Jews do not associate with Samaritans.)

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V6: When the crowds heard Philip and saw the signs he performed, they all paid close attention to what he said.

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Are we willing to take the gospel to people unlike us?

2) The gospel conquers all

V9-10: Now for some time a man named Simon had practiced sorcery in the city and amazed all the people of Samaria. He boasted that he was someone great, ¹⁰ and all the people, both high and low, gave him their attention and exclaimed, “This man is rightly called the Great Power of God.”

2) The gospel conquers all

V9-10: Now for some time a man named Simon had practiced sorcery in the city and amazed all the people of Samaria. He boasted that he was someone great,¹⁰ and all the people, both high and low, gave him their attention and exclaimed, “This man is rightly called the Great Power of God.”

Trust in the power of the gospel!

2) The gospel conquers all

V11-12: They followed *Simon* because he had amazed them for a long time with his sorcery. ¹² **But** when they believed Philip as he proclaimed the good news of the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women.

3) Why was the Holy Spirit withheld?

V15-17: When they arrived, they prayed for the new believers there that they might receive the Holy Spirit, ¹⁶ because the Holy Spirit had not yet come on any of them; they had simply been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. ¹⁷ Then Peter and John placed their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

3) Why was the Holy Spirit withheld?

Acts 2v37-38: When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, “Brothers, what shall we do?” ³⁸ Peter replied, “Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.”

3) Why was the Holy Spirit withheld?

10v44: While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit came on all who heard the message.

3) Why was the Holy Spirit withheld?

1 Cor 12v13: For we were all baptized by one Spirit so as to form one body—whether Jews or Gentiles, slave or free—and we were all given the one Spirit to drink.

3) Why was the Holy Spirit withheld?

V14: When the apostles in Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to Samaria.

3) Why was the Holy Spirit withheld?

“At this turning point in the mission, something else was required in addition to the ordinary baptism of converts. It had to be demonstrated to the Samaritans beyond any shadow of doubt that they really had become members of the church... an unprecedented moment requires unprecedented measures.”

Geoffrey Lampe

4) Was Simon's faith genuine?

V18-19: When Simon saw that the Spirit was given at the laying on of the apostles' hands, he offered them money¹⁹ and said, "Give me also this ability so that everyone on whom I lay my hands may receive the Holy Spirit."

4) Was Simon's faith genuine?

V20-21: Peter answered: “May your money perish with you, because you thought you could buy the gift of God with money! ²¹ You have no part or share in this ministry, because your heart is not right before God.”



4) Was Simon's faith genuine?

V22: Repent of this wickedness and pray to the Lord in the hope that he may forgive you for having such a thought in your heart.

4) Was Simon's faith genuine?

V25: After they had further proclaimed the word of the Lord and testified about Jesus, Peter and John returned to Jerusalem, preaching the gospel in many Samaritan villages.

*Am I prepared to take the good news of
Jesus to people who are...*

...unlike me...

...as well as people who are...

...like me?

