#### Message Notes

for today's message on . . "It's always darker before a breakthrough!"

Introduction – "Things that make you go hmmmm?!?!"

Review of what happened to Stephen from Acts 7:1-60

Four Truths that will help you go through the darkness of life

1. (Acts 8:1)

2. (Acts 8:2)

3. (Acts 8:3)

4. (Acts 8:4-8) dy of the

Application – "God is in control...are you getting the benefit of this?"

#### Scripture Passages

(taken from the New International Version)

Acts 8:1-8

<sup>1</sup>And Saul was there, giving approval to his death. On that day a great persecution broke out against the church at Jerusalem, and all except the apostles were scattered throughout Judea and Samaria. <sup>2</sup>Godly men buried Stephen and mourned deeply for him. <sup>3</sup>But Saul began to destroy the church. Going from house to house, he dragged off men and women and put them in prison.

4Those who had been scattered preached the word wherever they went. <sup>5</sup>Philip went down to a city in Samaria and proclaimed the Christ there. <sup>6</sup>When the crowds heard Philip and saw the miraculous signs he did, they all paid close attention to what he said. <sup>7</sup>With shrieks, evil spirits came out of many, and many paralytics and cripples were healed. <sup>8</sup>So there was great joy in that city.

Romans 8:28

<sup>28</sup>And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.

Romans 8:35-39

35Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? 36As it is written: "For your sake we face death all day long; we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered." 37No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. 38For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, 39neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Psalm 46:1-5

<sup>1</sup>God is our refuge and strength, an everpresent help in trouble. <sup>2</sup>Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea, <sup>3</sup>though its waters roar and foam and the mountains quake with their surging. Selah <sup>4</sup>There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy place where the Most High dwells. <sup>5</sup>God is within her, she will not fall; God will help her at break of day.

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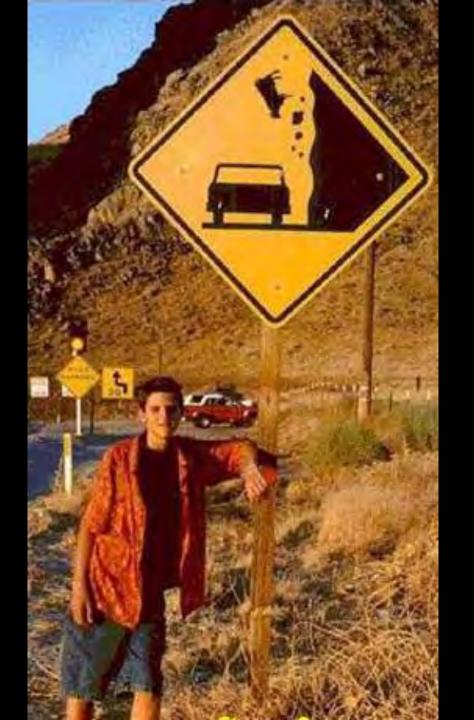
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BOG MAIN STREET







I took this picture at Kennedy Space Center, and I could've sworn they were rocket scientists









<sup>1</sup>And Saul was there, giving approval to his death. On that day a great persecution broke out against the church at Jerusalem, and all except the apostles were scattered throughout Judea and Samaria.

#### Acts 1:7-8

#### <sup>7</sup>He said to them:

"It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. <sup>8</sup>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."

## God Never Wastes Pain!

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## Godly people recognize Truth #1, yet mourn

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# It usually gets darker before it gets lighter!

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# God loves to bring joy out of trouble!