**Part 12 – The After Party**

**God can turn it for good.**

**Matthew 16:18**

**I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.**

**God can turn it for good.**

**Genesis 50:20**

**You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives.**

**Acts 8:1-8**

**Saul was one of the witnesses, and he agreed completely with the killing of Stephen.**

**On that day a great persecution broke out against the church in Jerusalem, and all except the apostles were scattered throughout Judea and Samaria. Godly men buried Stephen and mourned deeply for him.**

**But Saul began to destroy the church. Going from house to house, he dragged off both men and women and put them in prison.**

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

**Philip went down to a city in Samaria and proclaimed the Messiah there. When the crowds heard Philip and saw the signs he performed, they all paid close attention to what he said.**

**For with shrieks, impure spirits came out of many, and many who were paralyzed or lame were healed. So there was great joy in that city.**

**Romans 8:28**

**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.**

**How God can turn it for good.**

* **God turns grief into joy.**

**Psalm 30:5**

**Weeping may last through the night, but joy comes with the morning.**

**Psalm 30:11**

**You have turned my mourning into joyful dancing. You have taken away my clothes of mourning and clothed me with joy.**

* **God turns opposition into open doors.**

**Acts 8:4**

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

**Often, what feels like resistance becomes a God redirection.**

**Psalm 37:23-24**

**The Lord directs the steps of the godly. He delights in every detail of their lives. Though they stumble, they will never fall, for the Lord holds them by the hand.**

**Acts 11:19-21**

**Now those who had been scattered by the persecution that broke out when Stephen was killed traveled as far as Phoenicia, Cyprus and Antioch, spreading the word only among Jews.**

**Some of them, however, men from Cyprus and Cyrene, went to Antioch and began to speak to Greeks also, telling them the good news about the Lord Jesus.**

**The Lord’s hand was with them, and a great number of people believed and turned to the Lord.**

**Acts 1:8**

**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.**

**Four Ways God Can Turn Opposition into an Open Door.**

**1. It can force you into a new direction you hadn’t considered before.**

**2. It can help you to clarify your calling and vision.**

**3. It can grow your spiritual maturity.**

**4. It can lead to greater connections and influence.**

* **Surrender your grief or opposition to God in prayer.**
* **Look for the open door.**