

**RISKY PLAY/GROWING GRIT**

**Worship Leader Joel Rogers**

*Then they cast him [Stephen] out of the city and stoned him.  
And the witnesses laid down their garments at the feet  
of a young man named Saul. ~ Acts 7:58*

*And Saul approved of his execution.*

*And there arose on that day a great persecution against the church in  
Jerusalem, and they were all scattered throughout the regions of Judea  
and Samaria, except the apostles. Devout men buried Stephen and  
made great lamentation over him. But Saul was ravaging the church,  
and entering house after house, he dragged off men and women and  
committed them to prison. ~ Acts 8:1-3*

*But Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the  
Lord, went to the high priest and asked him for letters to the synagogues at  
Damascus, so that if he found any belonging to the Way, men or women,  
he might bring them bound to Jerusalem. Now as he went on his way, he  
approached Damascus, and suddenly a light from heaven shone around  
him. And falling to the ground, he heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul,  
why are you persecuting me?" And he said, "Who are you, Lord?" And He  
said, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. ~ Acts 9:1-5*

*But the Lord said to him (Ananias), "Go, for he is a chosen instrument of  
mine to carry my name before the Gentiles and kings and the children  
of Israel. For I will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of My  
name." ~ Acts 9:15-16*

*Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us  
also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run  
with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder  
and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured  
the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne  
of God. ~ Hebrews 12:1-2*

*"Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the  
kingdom of God." ~ John 3:3*

*It is for discipline that you have to endure. God is treating you as sons. For what son is there whom his father does not discipline? If you are left without discipline, in which all have participated, then you are illegitimate children and not sons. Besides this, we have had earthly fathers who disciplined us and we respected them. Shall we not much more be subject to the Father of spirits and live? For they disciplined us for a short time as it seemed best to them, but He disciplines us for our good, that we may share His holiness. For the moment all discipline seems painful rather than pleasant, but later it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.~ Hebrews 12:7-11*



## WAIKOLOA COMMUNITY CHURCH

WaikoloaCC.org ~ WaikoloaCC@gmail.com ~ 808.883.8944

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