

# ACTS

## Salvation and the Spirit

Acts 8:4-25

### Context – Persecution to Proliferation (Acts 8:1-4)

*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. (Acts 8:1)*

*Now those who were scattered went about preaching the word. (Acts 8:4)*

The \_\_\_\_\_ of disciples led to the \_\_\_\_\_ of the Word! (This is God's providence.)

And it wasn't the \_\_\_\_\_ spreading the faith. It was persecuted \_\_\_\_\_. (This is God's plan).

### Philip – the Evangelist Deacon (Acts 8:5-13)

Acts 1:8 is being fulfilled (though probably not as the church expected it to).

\_\_\_\_\_ presents certain challenges and opportunities ...

The great impact of the Gospel received: \_\_\_\_\_!

Philip preached two critical themes: The \_\_\_\_\_ of God and the \_\_\_\_\_ of Christ ...

### The Spirit Delayed – Why? (Acts 8:14-17)

The events described here are \_\_\_\_\_ and not \_\_\_\_\_ for the church after Acts. 3 important reasons why:

1) This is the first time the Gospel has gone outside of Jerusalem and into \_\_\_\_\_.

In a real sense, this a second (Samaritan) \_\_\_\_\_.

Acts 8:16-17 parallels Acts 2:4 (and later, Acts 10:44 and 19:6)

2) This is about the \_\_\_\_\_ of the true Church.

Long had there been a schism between Jews and Samaritans. (Consider even John's attitude in Luke 9:54!)

Now they are baptized into that same Spirit (1 Corinthians 12:13).

Also, the apostolic recognition was critical. The presence of the apostles (the laying on of hands) and the visible manifestation of the Spirit authenticated the faith of Samaritans.

3) The testimony of the Apostles (Scripture) is clear on \_\_\_\_\_ and the Holy Spirit:

Peter – Acts 2:38-39

Paul – Romans 8:9

### Simon Magus – Heathen Convert or Heretic?

Consider how Luke describes him ...

Consider his ' \_\_\_\_\_ ' ...

Consider his desire for the ability to 'dispense' (not receive for himself) the Holy Spirit ...

Consider Peter's subsequent \_\_\_\_\_ of Simon ...

In later Christian literature Simon is depicted as "the father of all heresies and as the unrelenting adversary of Peter from place to place, and ultimately in Rome". (F.F. Bruce)

### Don't Miss This:

God's purposes are always \_\_\_\_\_.

God's power to \_\_\_\_\_ is amazing.

God's salvation is \_\_\_\_\_.

God's people are instruments of \_\_\_\_\_.

*Now when they had testified and spoken the word of the Lord, they returned to Jerusalem, preaching the gospel to many villages of the Samaritans. (Acts 8:25)*