



They Received the Holy Spirit

Acts 8:1-25

Acts 8:1 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. 2 Godly men buried Stephen and mourned deeply for him. 3 But Saul began to destroy the church. Going from house to house, he dragged off men and women and put them in prison.

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

9 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 the divine power known as the Great Power." 11 They followed him because he had amazed them for a long time with his magic. 12 But when they believed Philip as he preached the good news of the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women. 13 Simon himself believed and was baptized. And he followed Philip everywhere, astonished by the great signs and miracles he saw.

14 When the apostles in Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them. 15 When they arrived, they prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit, 16 because the Holy Spirit had not yet come upon any of them; they had simply been baptized into the name of the Lord Jesus. 17 Then Peter and John placed their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

18 When Simon saw that the Spirit was given at the laying on of the apostles' hands, he offered them money 19 and said, "Give me also this ability so that everyone on whom I lay my hands may receive the Holy Spirit." 20 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. 22 Repent of this wickedness and pray to the Lord. Perhaps he will forgive you for having such a thought in your heart. 23 For I see that you are full of bitterness and captive to sin." 24 Then Simon answered, "Pray to the Lord for me so that nothing you have said may happen to me."

25 When they had testified and proclaimed the word of the Lord, Peter and John returned to Jerusalem, preaching the gospel in many Samaritan villages.

- ▶ Acts Chapter 1 – Jesus ascended to heaven and instructed the disciples to wait for the Holy Spirit.
- ▶ Acts Chapter 2 – The believers were filled with the Holy Spirit and the church was launched.
- ▶ Acts Chapter 3 – A great miracle provided the opportunity for Peter to preach Jesus to the crowd.
- ▶ Acts Chapter 4-5-6-7 – Great persecution arose and continued, but the Church marched forward.

The saints were scattered

▲ Stephen was stoned

Acts 7:59 While they were stoning him, Stephen prayed, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." 60 Then he fell on his knees and cried out, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." When he had said this, he fell asleep.

▲ Saul was supporting the stoning

Acts 8:1 And Saul was there, giving approval to his death.

▲ The saints were scattered

Acts 8:1 On that day a great persecution broke out against the church at Jerusalem, and all except the apostles were scattered throughout Judea and Samaria. 2 Godly men buried Stephen and mourned deeply for him. 3 But Saul began to destroy the church. Going from house to house, he dragged off men and women and put them in prison.

▲ The scattered saints were spreading the story

Acts 8:4 Those who had been scattered preached the word wherever they went.

The story of the Savior was spreading

▲ The Savior was proclaimed in Samaria

Acts 8:5 Philip went down to a city in Samaria and proclaimed the Christ there.

▲ Supernatural signs were performed

Acts 8:6 When the crowds heard Philip and saw the miraculous signs he did, they all paid close attention to what he said. 7 With shrieks, evil spirits came out of many, and many paralytics and cripples were healed. 8 So there was great joy in that city.

▲ The Samaritans were persuaded

Acts 8:9 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 the divine power known as the Great Power." 11 They followed him because he had amazed them for a long time with his magic. 12 But when they believed Philip as he preached the good news of the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women.

▲ Simon the sorcerer was persuaded

Acts 8:13 Simon himself believed and was baptized. And he followed Philip everywhere, astonished by the great signs and miracles he saw.

The Spirit was supplied to the Samaritans

▲ The apostles prioritized receiving the Spirit

Acts 8:14 When the apostles in Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them. 15 When they arrived, they prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit, 16 because the Holy Spirit had not yet come upon any of them; they had simply been baptized into the name of the Lord Jesus.

- They were believers, but they needed more
- They were blessed with the breaking of bondages, but they needed more
- They were baptized, but they needed more

▲ The apostles promoted receiving the Spirit to the Samaritans

Acts 8:17 Then Peter and John placed their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

- These new believers were ready
- These new believers were receptive

▲ The apostle Peter rebuked Simon the sorcerer

Acts 8:18 When Simon saw that the Spirit was given at the laying on of the apostles' hands, he offered them money 19 and said, "Give me also this ability so that everyone on whom I lay my hands may receive the Holy Spirit." 20 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. 22 Repent of this wickedness and pray to the Lord. Perhaps he will forgive you for having such a thought in your heart. 23 For I see that you are full of bitterness and captive to sin." 24 Then Simon answered, "Pray to the Lord for me so that nothing you have said may happen to me."

- Simon was seeing something supernatural
- Simon was supposing the Spirit was sellable
- Simon was still secular and selfish and sinful
- Simon was sorry when scolded sternly

▲ The apostles preached throughout the region of Samaria

Acts 8:25 When they had testified and proclaimed the word of the Lord, Peter and John returned to Jerusalem, preaching the gospel in many Samaritan villages.

- ▶ The gift of the Holy Spirit is a fiery filling for all believers — let's read and research and respond!
- ▶ The gift of the Holy Spirit is furnished free to all believers — let's request and receive!
- ▶ The gift of the Holy Spirit is for the fullness and freshness of all believers and bodies — let's rally and revive!