

THE WITNESS OF THE SCATTERED BELIEVERS - This is the transitional segment of the book of Acts

8:1 persecution broke out against the church

- What was the source?
- The Church's response to persecution is a major theme in Acts.

8:3 scattered throughout Judea and Samaria

- A major step forward in the church's developing form a regional Jewish sect to a universal body of believers

8:4 [they] preached the word wherever they went

PHILIP'S SPIRIT-EMPOWERED WITNESS IN SAMARIA (8:5-8)

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

Acts 8:5-8 NIV Philip went down to a city in Samaria and proclaimed the Messiah there. (6) When the crowds heard Philip and saw the signs he performed, they all paid close attention to what he said. (7) For with shrieks, impure spirits came out of many, and many who were paralyzed or lame were healed. (8) So there was great joy in that city.

8:6 crowds heard Philip and saw the miraculous signs he did

- Truth encounter
- Power encounter

8:8 great joy

- Joy is a sign of the Spirit of God working in one's life (Luke 10:21; Acts 8:38; Acts 13:52; Rom 14:17; Rom 15:13; Gal 5:22; 1 Thess 1:6)

8:12 they believed Philip as he preached the good news of the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ

Baptized, both men and women

- Why does Luke specifically mention women?

THE SAMARITAN OUTPOURING

A MISSING INGREDIENT (8:14-16)

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

8:14 Samaria ... accepted the word of God

8:15 they prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit

8:16 the Holy Spirit had not yet come upon any of them

- *How did they know? If all the exciting things mentioned in verses 5-8 were happening in our church service, wouldn't we think it was an outpouring of the Holy Spirit?*
- *Why was this such a big deal?*

They had simply been baptized into the name of the Lord Jesus

SAMARITANS RECEIVE THE SPIRIT (8:17, 25)

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

Acts 8:25 NIV *After they had further proclaimed the word of the Lord and testified about Jesus, Peter and John returned to Jerusalem, preaching the gospel in many Samaritan villages.*

8:17 placed their hand on them

- *Why did they lay hands on them?*

They received the Holy Spirit

- *This was not the moment of the Samaritan's conversion.*

8:25 testified and proclaimed the word of the Lord

Preaching the gospel in many Samaritan villages

SIMON THE SORCERER (8:9-11, 13; 18-24)

- *Why do you think Luke included the story of Simon the Sorcerer in the book of Acts?*

8:13 Simon himself believed ... and he followed Philip

8:18 Simon saw that the Spirit was given

- *What did Simon see that was more impressive than that referred to in verses 5-8?*

8:20 the gift of God

PHILIP'S SPIRIT-DIRECTED MINISTRY IN GAZA (8:26-40)

- *How does this incident support Pastor Ed's application of John 4 – the fields are white unto harvest?*

8:26 An Angel of the Lord said to Philip, Go

- *This is the fifth appearance of an angel of the Lord in Luke-Acts, and the second appearance in Acts. Three more appearances will follow (10:4; 12:7-11, 12:23). How are angels associated with the preaching of the gospel?*

8:27 an Ethiopian

- *This is the first "pure Gentile" to receive the gospel in Acts.*

8:29 The Spirit told Philip, Go

8:32 The eunuch was reading

8:35 Philip ... told him the good news about Jesus

8:39 the eunuch ... went on his way rejoicing {Philip was raptured sideways for 20 miles!}