

Acts 8: The Gospel Goes To Samaria And Africa.

1. 1-25: Gospel Goes To Samaria.

i. 1-8: Persecution

Saul was there approving of the killing of Stephen; he took pleasure in attacking, imprisoning and killing Christians.

Those who left Jerusalem weren't formal preachers. Most were "circumstantial missionaries" who talked about Jesus wherever they went.

2 Corinthians 4:8-11 - *We are hard-pressed on every side, yet not crushed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed—always carrying about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our body. For we who live are always delivered to death for Jesus' sake, that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our mortal flesh.*

2 Corinthians 4:17 - *For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory,*

Philip was one of those forced to flee persecution, ending up in Samaria. Philip comes presenting the gospel, with signs and wonders bringing great joy in that city!

2 Timothy 3:12 - *Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution.*

Just as persecution spread the Gospel and purified Christians, likewise suffering purifies our faith.

The Gospel brings joy wherever it goes.

ii. 9-25: Simony

Simon had a fair degree of local sorcery fame. Whatever real power Simon had, it was from Satan, not God. Simon did not really desire the Holy Spirit for himself, but the ability to impart the power of the Holy Spirit to others at his will. This would give him much spiritual authority and fame. Simon's heart wasn't right to think that he could buy or sell God's power for selfish gain.

James 4:2-3 - *You lust and do not have. You murder and covet and cannot obtain. You fight and war. Yet you do not have because you do not ask. You*

ask and do not receive, because you ask amiss, that you may spend it on your pleasures.

Jeremiah 17:9 - *“The heart is deceitful above all things, And desperately wicked; Who can know it?”*

Matthew 10:8 - *“Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out demons. Freely you have received, freely give.”*

Luke 11:13 - *“If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!”*

1 Timothy 6:5 *...men of corrupt minds and destitute of the truth, who suppose that godliness is a means of gain. From such withdraw yourself.*

Simon was definitely poisoned by pride and bound by iniquity. Peter calls him to repentance (Repent therefore), and prayer (pray God).

The Samaritans received the Holy Spirit at the time of conversion and received gifts and graces of the Holy Spirit at the laying on of hands by Peter and John.

2. 26-40: Gospel Comes To Africa.

A man of Ethiopia, a proselyte to Judaism had come to Jerusalem to worship. On his return reading Isaiah, encounters Philip, gets saved, is baptized and goes away rejoicing while Philip is flown to Azotus.

Salvation causes rejoicing in newness.