

Acts 8:1-4 ¹Now Saul was consenting to his death. At that time a great persecution arose against the church which was at Jerusalem; and they were all scattered throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria, except the apostles. ²And devout men carried Stephen to his burial and made great lamentation over him. ³As for Saul, he made havoc of the church, entering every house, and dragging off men and women, committing *them* to prison. ⁴Therefore those who were scattered went everywhere preaching the word.

- What was beneficial about this persecution?
- Who were the devout men that buried Stephen?
- What is "made havoc"?
- How did Paul have the authority to arrest and persecute Christians?

4

Acts 8:5-10 ⁵Then Philip went down to the city of Samaria and preached Christ to them. ⁶And the multitudes with one accord heeded the things spoken by Philip, hearing and seeing the miracles which he did. ⁷For unclean spirits, crying with a loud voice, came out of many who were possessed; and many who were paralyzed and lame were healed. ⁸And there was great joy in that city. ⁹But there was a certain man called Simon, who previously practiced sorcery in the city and astonished the people of Samaria, claiming that he was someone great, ¹⁰to whom they all gave heed, from the least to the greatest, saying, "This man is the great power of God."

- Who is Phillip?
- What is a Samaritan?
- Who is Simon?
- Can any man be the great power of God?

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Acts 8:11-13 ¹¹And they heeded him because he had astonished them with his sorceries for a long time. ¹²But when they believed Phillip as he preached the things concerning the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, both men and women were baptized. ¹³Then Simon himself also believed; and when he was baptized he continued with Phillip, and was amazed, seeing the miracles and signs which were done.

- What is the significance of both men and women being baptized?

6

Acts 8:14-19 "Now when the apostles who were at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them, ¹⁵who, when they had come down, prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit. ¹⁶For as yet He had fallen upon none of them. They had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.¹⁷Then they laid hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit. ¹⁸And when Simon saw that through the laying on of the apostles' hands the Holy Spirit was given, he offered them money, ¹⁹saying, "Give me this power also, that anyone on whom I lay hands may receive the Holy Spirit."

- Why was it necessary for Peter and John to go to Samaria?
- How is it that the Samaritans were saved and baptized but did not have the Holy Spirit yet?
- Is there a difference between being baptized by, filled with, indwelt, and sealed by the Holy Spirit?

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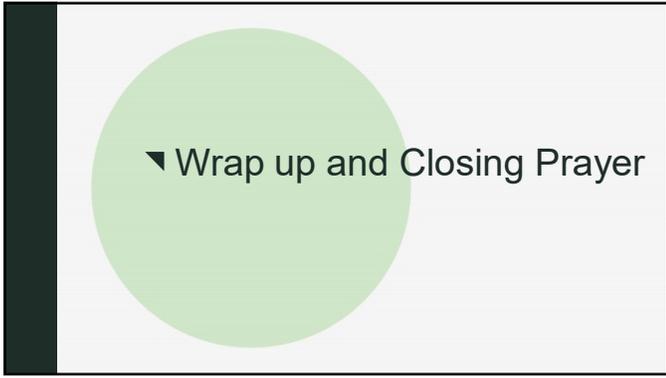
Acts 8:20-25 ²⁰But Peter said to him, "Your money perish with you, because you thought that the gift of God could be purchased with money! ²¹You have neither part nor portion in this matter, for your heart is not right in the sight of God. ²²Repent therefore of this your wickedness, and pray God if perhaps the thought of your heart may be forgiven you. ²³For I see that you are poisoned by bitterness and bound by iniquity."²⁴Then Simon answered and said, "Pray to the Lord for me, that none of the things which you have spoken may come upon me."²⁵So when they had testified and preached the word of the Lord, they returned to Jerusalem, preaching the gospel in many villages of the Samaritans.

- Simon was baptized. Was he saved and when?
- Why does baptism not save you?
- What is poisoned by bitterness and bound by iniquity?
- What did Simon *not* do?
- What significance does Simon hold?
- Is evangelism a gift of the spirit?

8

- The Gift of Wisdom - the gift to make choices and give leadership that is according to God's will.
- The Gift of Knowledge - the gift to have a comprehensive understanding of a spiritual issue or circumstance.
- The Gift of Faith - the gift to trust God and inspire others to trust God, no matter the conditions.
- The Gift of Healing - the wondrous gift to use God's healing power to cure a person who is ill, wounded or suffering.
- The Gift of Miracles - the gift to display signs and miracles that give credibility to God's Word and the Gospel message.
- The Gift of Prophecy - the gift to declare a message from God.
- The Gift of Discerning Spirits - the gift to recognize whether or not something is truly from God or in accordance with righteousness.
- The Gift of Tongues - the gift to communicate in a foreign language that you do not have experience with, in order to converse with those who speak that language.
- The Gift of Interpreting Tongues - the gift to interpret the speech and writings of a different language and translate it back to others in your own.
- The Gift of Administration - the gift to keep things ordered and in agreement with God's principles.
- The Gift of Helps - the gift of a desire and capacity to always help others, to do whatever it takes to get a task achieved.

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