

ACTS 8:1-40

The Church Scattered

November 8, 2026

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ACTS 1:8

"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

The Church Scattered–Going Beyond Jerusalem

Acts 8:1-3

Now Saul approved of putting Stephen to death.

And on that day a great persecution began against the church in Jerusalem, and they were all scattered throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria, except for the apostles. ² Some devout men buried Stephen, and mourned loudly for him. ³ But Saul began ravaging the church, entering house after house; and he would drag away men and women and put them in prison.



Philip In Samaria – Acts 8:4-8

The spread of the good news of Christ beyond Jerusalem began.

4 Therefore, those who had been scattered
went through *places* preaching the word.
5 Philip went down to the city of Samaria and
began proclaiming the Christ to them. 6 The
crowds were paying attention with one mind to
what was being said by Philip, as they heard
and saw the signs which he was performing.
7 For *in the case of* many who had unclean
spirits, they were coming out *of them* shouting
with a loud voice; and many who had been
paralyzed or limped *on crutches* were healed.
8 So there was much rejoicing in that city.

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Who is Philip in Acts 8?

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Who Is Philip In Acts 8

One of the 12 Apostles in Matthew 10 or One of the Seven Deacons in Acts 6

- "[2] *These are the names of the twelve apostles: first, Simon (who is called Peter) and his brother Andrew; James son of Zebedee, and his brother John;* [3] *Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; James son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus;* [4] *Simon the Zealot and Judas Iscariot, who betrayed him."* Matt 10:2-4
- *"*[2] *So the twelve summoned the congregation of the disciples and said, "It is not desirable for us to neglect the word of God in order to serve tables.* [3] *Instead, brothers and sisters, select from among you seven men of good reputation, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we may put in charge of this task.* [4] *But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word."* [5] *The announcement found approval with the whole congregation; and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, and Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolas, a proselyte from Antioch."* Acts 6:2-5
- *"And on that day a great persecution began against the church in Jerusalem, and they were all scattered throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria, except for the apostles."* Acts 8:1b

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What is so special about Philip going down to Samaria to preach?



Who are the Samaritans?

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What is so special about Philip going down to Samaria to preach?

How does Philip know how to proclaim Christ to the Samaritans?

"*They were continually devoting themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer."* Acts 2:42

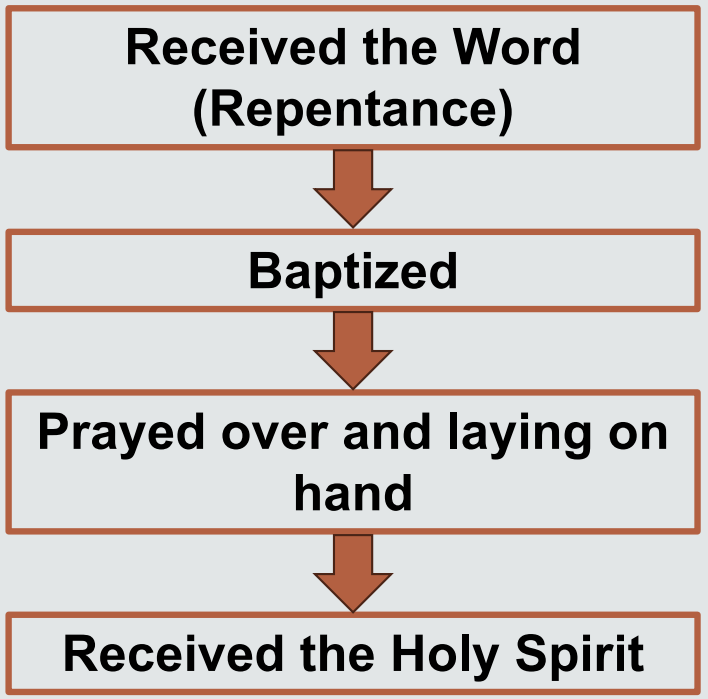
Philip In Samaria – Acts 8:9-13

9 Now a man named Simon had previously been practicing magic in the city and astonishing the people of Samaria, claiming to be someone great; 10 and all the people, from small to great, were paying attention to him, saying, "This man is the Power of God that is called Great." 11 And they were paying attention to him because for a long time he had astounded them with his magic arts. 12 But when they believed Philip as he was preaching the good news about the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, both men and women were being baptized.
13 Now even Simon himself believed; and after being baptized, he continued on with Philip, and as he observed signs and great miracles taking place, he was repeatedly amazed.

What does the fact that Philip was proclaiming Christ successfully and performing miracles tell us about him?

Special Mission of the Church – Acts: 14-17

*14 Now when the apostles in Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent them **Peter and John**, 15 who came down and prayed for them that they would receive the Holy Spirit. 16 (For He had not yet fallen upon any of them; they had simply been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.)*
17 Then they began laying their hands on them, and they were receiving the Holy Spirit.



Two Types Of Converts

JEWISH CONVERTS

Peter replied, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit." Acts 2:38

- Repent
- Baptized
- Received the Holy Spirit

Why did Peter and John have to come to Samaria to pray and lay hands on the new Samaritan converts in order for them to receive the Holy Spirit?

SAMARITAN CONVERTS

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- Repent
- Baptized
- Apostles prayed and lay their hands on them
- Received the Holy Spirit

Special Mission of the Church – Acts 8:18-24

*18 Now when Simon saw that the Spirit was given through the laying on of the apostles' hands, he offered them money, 19 saying, "Give this authority to me as well, so that everyone on whom I lay my hands may receive the Holy Spirit." 20 But **Peter** said to him, "May your silver perish with you, because you thought you could acquire the gift of God with money! 21 You have no part or share in this matter, for your heart is not right before God. 22 Therefore, repent of this wickedness of yours, and pray to the Lord that, if possible, the intention of your heart will be forgiven you. 23 For I see that you are in the gall of bitterness and in the bondage of unrighteousness." 24 But Simon answered and said, "Pray to the Lord for me yourselves, so that nothing of what you have said may come upon me."*

Simon's problem?

Philip In Gaza – Acts 8:26-32

26 But an angel of the Lord spoke to Philip, saying, "Get ready and go south to the road that descends from Jerusalem to Gaza." (This is a desert road.) 27 So he got ready and went; and there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, who was in charge of all her treasure; and he had come to Jerusalem to worship, 28 and he was returning and sitting in his chariot, and was reading Isaiah the prophet. 29 Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go up and join this chariot." 30 Philip ran up and heard him reading Isaiah the prophet, and said, "Do you understand what you are reading?" 31 And he said, "Well, how could I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to come up and sit with him. 32 Now the passage of Scripture which he was reading was this:



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What can we tell about the Ethiopian Eunuch from vs. 18-32?

"He was led like a sheep to slaughter;
And like a lamb that is silent before its shearer,
So He does not open His mouth.
33 In humiliation His justice was taken away;
Who will describe His generation?
For His life is taken away from the earth." Acts 8:26-32

Passage from Isaiah 53 and it's about Jesus

Philip In Gaza – Acts 8:34-40

34 The eunuch asked Philip, "Tell me, please, who is the prophet talking about, himself or someone else?" 35 Then Philip began with that very passage of Scripture and told him the good news about Jesus.

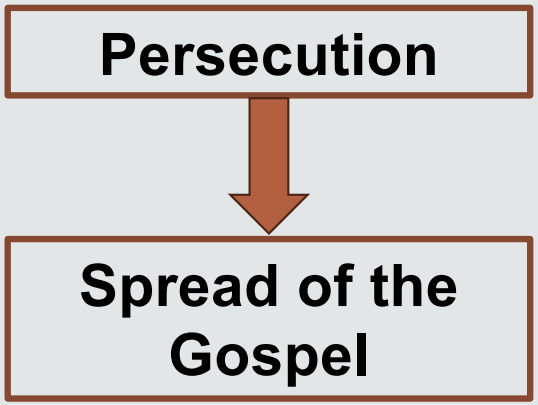
36 As they traveled along the road, they came to some water and the eunuch said, "Look, here is water. What can stand in the way of my being baptized?" [37] 38 And he gave orders to stop the chariot. Then both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water and Philip baptized him. 39 When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord suddenly took Philip away, and the eunuch did not see him again, but went on his way rejoicing. 40 Philip, however, appeared at Azotus and traveled about, preaching the gospel in all the towns until he reached Caesarea.

The Church Going Beyond Jerusalem

Acts 8:1-4

"Now Saul approved of putting Stephen to death.

And on that day a great persecution began against the church in Jerusalem, and they were all scattered throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria, except for the apostles. ² *Some devout men buried Stephen, and mourned loudly for him.* ³ *But Saul began ravaging the church, entering house after house; and he would drag away men and women and put them in prison.* ⁴ Therefore, those who had been scattered went through *places* preaching the word.



"As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today."
Gen 50:20

The Four Characters In Acts 8

Peter	• Obedient Lay Follower Empowered to Witness
Samaritans Converts	• Amazed by wonders and signs • Joyful Converts
Simon	• A man with a wrong intention
The Ethiopian Eunuch	• A non-Jewish person who was eager to learn more about God that became the first recorded “Gentile believer.”

Philip's Example

- He was a men of good reputation, full of the Spirit and of wisdom.
- A deacon and not one of the 12 apostles. A layman chosen to serve the tables.
- He was used mightily by God preaching the Gospel and doing signs and wonders.
- He was obedient to the leading of the Holy Spirit going where God sent him.
- He loved the lost–sharing the Gospel with Samaritans and an Ethiopian.
- He knew God's word well as seen in explaining God's word to the Ethiopian eunuch.
- He was the first one recorded to take the Gospel outside of Jerusalem and converted the first Gentile.



Important Qualifications for Soul-Winning

GODWARD RELATIONSHIP

- Holiness of character
- Spiritual life
- Humility
- Living faith
- Earnestness
- Simplicity of heart
- Complete surrender

MANWORD RELATIONSHIP

- Knowledge
- Sincerity
- Evident earnestness
- Love
- Unselfishness
- Seriousness
- tenderness

Irving L. Jensen, Acts (A Self-Study Guide)
The Moody Bible Institute of Chicago, 1969 pp. 45



APPLICATIONS

1. What examples do you see in this lesson that you can apply?
2. What sin to avoid?