

“...who came down and prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit...”

Why did they not yet have the Holy Spirit?

“...for he had not yet fallen on any of them...”

“...but they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.”

“Then they laid their hands on them and they received the Holy Spirit.”

Why was this related to the apostles (Peter and John)?

Peter and John and Simon (vv. 18-25):

What did Simon do when Peter and John came to Samaria?

“Now when Simon saw that the Spirit was given through the laying on of the apostles’ hands...”

“...he offered them money, saying, ‘Give me this power (*exousia*) also, so that anyone on whom I lay my hands may receive the Holy Spirit.’”

How did Peter and John respond to Simon?

“But Peter said to him...”

‘May your silver perish with you, because you thought you could obtain the gift of God with money!’

the gift of God (cf. Acts 2:38)

‘You have neither part nor lot in this matter, for your heart is not right before God.’

this matter (“lot,” cf. Acts 1:17, 26; “right,” cf. Acts 13:10)

‘Repent, therefore, of this wickedness of yours, and pray to the Lord that, if possible, the intent of your heart may be forgiven you.’

‘For I see that you are in the gall of bitterness and in the bond of iniquity.’

“And Simon answered, ‘Pray for me to the Lord, that nothing of what you have said may come upon me.’”

Was Simon a true believer?

“Now when they had testified and spoken the word of the Lord, they returned to Jerusalem, preaching the gospel to many villages of the Samaritans.” (v. 25)

Sunday, October 11, 2026
Danny Capon, *Pastor*

ACTS—The Confident Witness of Jesus Christ
No. 20 | Witnessing beyond Jerusalem, pt. 1

Acts 8:(4)5-25

Review

Acts depicts the *continuing* ministry of Jesus Christ. Though he has ascended, the witness of Jesus continues by the power of the Spirit through the spread of the gospel for the growth of the church. Those who hear and believe the witness of Jesus Christ can and should be confident following his way.

(1:1-26) Waiting for the Spirit—Confirming the Twelve Apostles

(2:1-47) Receiving of the Spirit—Birthing the Church

What then do we see in Acts 3 and following?

The witness of Jesus Christ goes from Jerusalem to the ends of the earth. How?

What did the witness (and witnesses) of Jesus Christ encounter?

How did the witness (and witnesses) of Jesus Christ prevail?

Witnessing beyond Jerusalem, pt. 1

8:(4)5-25

Overview

(3:1-8:3) Witnessing in Jerusalem

(8:4-12:25) Witnessing beyond Jerusalem

Who is the witness of Jesus Christ *for*?

Who needs it? Who can receive it? Who should hear it? Who needs to respond to it?

What does the witness of Jesus Christ come up against as it goes beyond Jerusalem?

(8:5-40) Philip takes the witness of Jesus Christ beyond the Jewish people

(8:5-25) It is for Samaritans

(8:26-40) It is for Ethiopians

Philip’s ministry demonstrates that the witness of Jesus Christ is for people who are beyond the Jews—it is for everyone (Samaritans, too), and it is not like anything else (including, magic).

ESV **Acts 1:8** “But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

ESV **Acts 6:7** And the word of God continued to increase, and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem...

ESV **Acts 8:1** ... And there arose on that day a great persecution against the church in Jerusalem, and they were all scattered throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria...

ESV **Acts 8:4** Now those who were scattered went about preaching the word.

ESV **Acts 8:5** Philip went down to the city of Samaria and proclaimed to them the Christ.

Who is Philip?

ESV **Acts 6:5** And what they said pleased the whole gathering, and they chose **Stephen**, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, and **Philip**, and Prochorus, and Nicanor, and Timon, and Parmenas, and Nicolaus, a proselyte of Antioch.

Who are the Samaritans?

"There seems to be no Old Testament text unambiguously referring to them. By New Testament times the Jews looked upon the Samaritans as foreigners (Luke 17:18; cf. Matt. 10:5)...Samaritanism evidently emerged in the postexilic period out of the common matrix that produced various other sectarian movements in Judaism....There was apparently a period of gradual drifting apart during which a number of antagonisms, economic and political advantages, as well as religious differences intensified feelings. The separation of Samaritans and Jews was more a process than an event." (Everett Ferguson, p. 534)

ESV **John 4:9** The Samaritan woman said to him, "How is it that you, a Jew, ask for a drink from me, a woman of Samaria?" (For Jews have no dealings with Samaritans.)

The witness of Jesus Christ is for Samaritans. (8:5-13)

ESV **Acts 8:5** Philip went down to the city of Samaria and proclaimed to them the Christ....

Philip and the people of Samaria (vv. 5-8):

What did Philip do?

"Philip...**proclaimed** to them (the people of Samaria) the Christ."

The word > is proclaimed > by believers in Christ >

to those who will hear > who will respond to it >

which will determine its result

Example: Luke 24: and Acts 2:

"Philip...(did) **signs**..."

unclean spirits came out of many

many who were paralyzed or lame were healed

How did the people respond?

"the crowds with one accord **paid attention** to what was being said..."

"...when they heard and saw the signs....(and) there was much joy..."

Philip and Simon (vv. 9-13):

Who was Simon?

"But there was a man named Simon, who had previously practiced **magic** in the city..."

What is magic?

"Magic refers to efforts to control supernatural forces for one's own ends by means that rest on some peculiar and secret wisdom....The root idea in magic was that by employing the proper means the gods or demons could be forced to do something for you." (Ferguson, pp. 227, 229)

"...and (he) amazed the people of Samaria, saying that he himself was somebody great."

"They all **paid attention** to him, from the least to the greatest, saying, 'This man is the power (*dunamis*) of God that is called Great,'"

"And they paid attention to him because for a long time he had amazed them with his magic."

How did Simon respond?

"But when they believed Philip...they were baptized..."

he preached good news

about the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ

"Even Simon himself believed, and after being baptized..."

he continued with Philip

seeing signs and great miracles performed, he was amazed

The witness of Jesus Christ is not like magic. (8:14-25)

ESV **Acts 8:14** Now when the apostles at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent to them Peter and John...

Peter and John and the people of Samaria (vv. 14-17):

Why did Peter and John come to Samaria?

"Now when the apostles at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God..."

"...they sent to them Peter and John..."

What happened when Peter and John came to Samaria?