

Acts 8

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Acts 8:1 – 3 – Saul’s Persecution Continues

- Saul’s devotion to God was something that had been established to him from a **young** age
- Saul’s traditions and passions were passed down from his father – Galatians 1:13-14
- Saul’s father was a Pharisee
- Saul was committed to getting rid of any **followers** of Jesus – Acts 8:3
- The stoning of Stephen shows the lengths Saul was willing to go to persecute the Church
- Stephen gets a burial from some **devoted** men in Christ

Acts 8:4 – 8 – Philip Teaches In Samaria

- Persecution in a Church is like a seed, it scatters it and only produces a greater harvest
- Philip goes to Samaria an area **mixed** with Jews and Gentiles
- Philip not only declared Gods’ word by preaching but also Gods power by healing people – Acts 8:7
- People were paying attention and there was joy in the city – Acts 8:8

Acts 8:9 – 25 – Simon The Magician

- Simon was a man **known** for his illusions as sorcery – Acts 8:8
- He wasn’t an average man, Simon captivated an audience – Acts 8:11
- Satan uses deception to keep people from the truth - 2 Thess. 2:1-14
- Simon deceived people using Magic and deception but Christ followers did the opposite – 1 Corinthians 2:1-3
- No matter how much power Simon had Philips power were **greater**
- Simon believed in the miracles that he saw and was then baptized
- Later Simon wanted to pay money so that he could lay hands on people and heal them – Acts 8:18-19
- In Church **history** there is something called “Simony”

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- Peter corrected Simon so that he knew God was not impressed by money
- God didn't want Simon's money he wanted his **life**
- Simon was encouraged to repent of this wrong thinking – Acts 8:22
- Going back to Jerusalem they continued to preach the gospel in Samaria with **whomever** would listen – Acts 8:25

Acts 8:26 – 40 – Philip and The Ethiopian Eunuch

- Philip as a follower of Christ was open to God's direction because he was a true believer and under the power of the Holy Spirit
- An angel of the Lord had come to Philip and told him to go – Acts 8:26
- Philip had a role similar to a deacon and was called to **serve**
- None the less God wanted to use him, and the Angel gives him direction
- Philip didn't have **specifics** because that's not what he needed. What he needed he already possessed which was faith
- This faith led Philip south from Jerusalem to Gaza – Acts 8:26
- Once there Philip saw the Ethiopian Eunuch reading
- An Ethiopian Eunuch was someone who went to Jerusalem to worship and then went back home
- He was someone who took his faith with God **seriously** and was a searcher
- Philip wanted whatever God wanted, so whenever the Spirit said to sit with him, Philip didn't walk he ran – Acts 8:30
- Philip had a willing and bold faith – 2 Corinthians 5:7
- Philip was called to serve because he wasn't a bench warmer, he wanted to have skin in the Game and took the Lord seriously
- The Ethiopian Eunuch was reading from **Isaiah** and had some questions
- Philip preceded to tell him about Jesus and the Good News – Romans 1:16
- Later The Eunuch sees water and asks why he can't get baptized, Philip stops and baptizes him
- After this The **Spirit** of the Lord carried Philip away to Azotus
- Philip continued preaching the gospel from Azotus to Caesarea – Acts 8:40
- This is around a **60**-mile journey