



# WORK OF THE SPIRIT

## Acts Chapter 8

Lesson 6

### FIRST DAY: Review and Overview

1. In what particular way were you inspired or challenged by the study of Acts 6-7?
2. Romans 8:28 emphatically states, *And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose.* This divine principle is clearly seen in Acts 8. After Stephen's martyrdom, the Pharisees and Sadducees (the two leading religious sects in Israel) joined forces and commissioned a young man, Saul, who began to zealously persecute the Church. Yet, what could have been a lethal blow to the blossoming Church was used by God to spread the Gospel to Samaria, an Ethiopian official, and into other parts of Israel.

Perhaps you are currently experiencing hardship. Take heart as you study Acts 8, remembering that God is able to make *all things work together for good.* From the sections below record what ministers to you most:

- a. Acts 8:1-4
  - b. Acts 8:5-13
  - c. Acts 8:14-25
  - d. Acts 8:26-40
3. Ask the Lord to bless you with understanding as you do your Bible study. Write your prayer here.

*Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning at this Scripture, preached Jesus to him.*  
Acts 8:35

**SECOND DAY:** Read Acts 8:1-4

1. In Acts 8:1a we learn that Saul *was consenting* to Stephen's death. The word for *consenting* actually means *to approve, be pleased with*. What impression does this give you of Saul?
  
2. From Acts 8:1b cite what happened to the Church *at that time*.
  - a. Who remained in Jerusalem? Acts 8:1c
    - (1) Why do you think they remained?
  
3. What did some *devout men* do? Acts 8:2
  - a. Connect their grief with 1 Thessalonians 4:13 and share your thoughts.
  
4. *As for Saul*, what did he do following Stephen's death? Acts 8:3
  - a. Observe Saul from Acts 7:58, 8:1, 3. What do you see?
  
5. What happened as a result of persecution against the Church? Acts 8:4
  - a. How did God use this turn of events to fulfill His command in Acts 1:8?
  
6. How does today's lesson speak to you concerning the trials you face?

**THIRD DAY:** Read Acts 8:5–13

1. As the disciples were *scattered* because of persecution, what did Philip do? Acts 8:5
  - a. Review Acts 6:3–6 and note who Philip was.
  - b. Briefly document the result of his ministry. Acts 8:6–8
    - (1) What stands out to you about how God used Philip? See also John 14:12.
2. Use Acts 8:9, 11 to describe Simon.
  - a. How did the people respond to him? Acts 8:10–11
3. When Philip *preached*, the people *believed* him instead of Simon. What *things* did Philip preach? Acts 8:12
  - a. What does the response of the people convey about the Gospel message?
4. Contrast the ministry of Philip with the sorcery of Simon. Share your thoughts.
5. How did *Simon himself* respond to Philip? Acts 8:13
6. What do you find most compelling about Philip?

**FOURTH DAY:** Read Acts 8:14–25

1. Answer the following from Acts 8:14–17:
  - a. When the apostles *heard* what the Lord was doing in Samaria, how did they respond? Acts 8:14
  - b. What did they do *when they had come*? Acts 8:15, 17
  - c. Why did they do this? Acts 8:16
    - (1) How does this minister to you about the work of the Holy Spirit?
2. When Simon *saw* how the *Holy Spirit was given*, what did he do? Acts 8:18b–19
3. Use Peter’s rebuke in Acts 8:20–23 to answer the following:
  - a. What did Simon wrongly think he could do? Acts 8:20
  - b. What did Peter identify as Simon’s root problem? Acts 8:21b
  - c. Record Peter’s solution to this problem. Acts 8:22
  - d. What could Peter *see* about Simon? Acts 8:23
    - (1) How would these things contribute to Simon’s flawed perspective?
4. From Acts 8:24 comment on Simon’s response.
5. How did the disciples conclude their time in Samaria? Acts 8:25a
  - a. Why do you think this was essential? See also John 17:17.
  - b. What did the disciples do when they *returned to Jerusalem*? Acts 8:25b
6. Share a lesson you received through the events that transpired in Samaria.

**FIFTH DAY:** Read Acts 8:26–40

1. In the midst of the thriving ministry in Samaria, Philip was given instructions by *an angel of the Lord*. Record and comment on these instructions. Acts 8:26
  
2. Describe the scene Philip encountered when he *arose and went* to the desert. Acts 8:27–28
  
3. What did the Holy Spirit prompt Philip to do? Acts 8:29
  - a. What did Philip find the man doing? Acts 8:30a
  
  - b. What question did Philip pose to the Ethiopian? Acts 8:30b
    - (1) Why was this an important question to ask?
  
  - c. How did the Ethiopian respond? Acts 8:31
  
  - d. What do you find significant about *the place in Scripture* (Isaiah 53:7–8) where the Ethiopian was reading? Acts 8:32–33
    - (1) What did the eunuch desire to know? Acts 8:34
  
    - (2) From Acts 8:35 remark on Philip's response.
  
4. Use Acts 8:36–38 to comment on what occurred *as they went down the road*.
  
5. What happened *when they came up out of the water*? Acts 8:39b
  
6. What do you find gripping about this account? Acts 8:26–39
  
7. From Acts 8:40 observe what happened to Philip. What do you see?
  
8. Share a personal experience of the leading of the Holy Spirit.

**SIXTH DAY: Review**

1. How do you see the work of the Holy Spirit in the following events:

a. the scattering of the believers (Acts 8:1-4)

b. the ministry of Philip (Acts 8:5-8, 40)

c. Peter's rebuke of Simon the sorcerer (Acts 8:20-23)

d. the salvation of the Ethiopian eunuch (Acts 8:26-39)

2. From Acts 8:14-17, 25 why do you think it was important that the apostles went to Samaria? See also John 4:4.

*And he answered and said, "I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God."*  
Acts 8:37b