

Church – The Beginnings, Part 22
The Gospel Adventures of Philip, the Deacon
Acts 8:4-40 | 03/26/2017
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1. **Philip – one of the 7 Deacons from Acts 6:1-7**
2. **The Gospel in Samaria – Scattered “Hellenistic” Jewish Christians – Preaching everywhere. God used Philip Mightily (Acts 8:5-8) – Signs, Wonders, Miracles, and Healings to Confirm God’s Word. Philip was Received with Open Arms. The People “HEEDED” what he said.**
3. **Simon the Great Magician – Practiced Sorcery – Astonished the People. (Acts 8:9-11) Until Philip came, Simon the Great, was “the Great Power of God” and the people “heeded him greatly” – astonished from the least to the greatest. → This is Demonic Bondage**
4. **Philip Preached, people “believed”, people were “baptized” (in water) ... yet folks did not receive the Holy Spirit? Why? Why send the Apostles? (vv: 12-25)**
 - a. **It was a “switch” of “heeding” and “astonishment” → that is NOT Saving Faith**
 - b. **Folks can be baptized upon “credible confession” and yet not be genuinely born again. Look at Simon (formerly “the Great Power of God”) tried to “Purchase” the right to “lay hands on people so that they can receive the Holy Spirit”. Peter’s response says it all → Acts 8:18-23. Peter is describing a person who CANNOT be genuinely Born Again. The Fruit of the LIFE After “confession” and “baptism” will let us know if a person is genuinely saved or not (Luke 3:8 – “bear the fruits worthy of repentance...”). Simon the Magician’s sin was Covetousness, based upon bondage to bitterness.**
 - c. **We do NOT look to the Book of Acts to interpret other Scripture. That can be very dangerous. We must look to the Apostles Doctrine first (Romans thru Jude), then the Gospels, then we can look at passages in Acts to evaluate what is going on. Salvation: John 3, 7:37-39; John 14-16; Titus 3:4-7; Eph 1:13-14; 4:30 – when a lost sinner genuinely repents of his/her sins, and personally trusts Christ, in full surrender, for his/her salvation (based upon Christ’s Crucifixion, Death, Burial, and Resurrection – 1 Cor. 15:1-5) that person is Born Again, Born of the Spirit and God’s Holy Spirit indwells that saved person, FOREVER. So, based on the Doctrines about Salvation, we must analyze what was going on in Samaria after Philip Preached, and the Apostles came down from Jerusalem. We cannot interpret other Scripture based upon this historical event.**
 - d. **This Opened the Door for the Gospel for the Apostles to Preach to other villages in Samaria**
5. **Philip’s Personal Ministry with the Ethiopian Eunuch – Acts 8:26-39**

An angel of God spoke – and Philip went. Full Obedience.
Stop a successful ministry for One Person? That is NOT “Practical” / “Expedient”
Run, work for it ... prayer & feet to faith – chasing a chariot? I have to use effort?
Proclaiming Jesus, the Messiah, from Isaiah 53 (→ Isaiah 52:13 – 53:12)
Water Baptism → “they went DOWN into the water ... ” → Let Bible interpret Bible
6. **Beam Me Up , Jesus – Azotus to Caesarea ... Acts 8:39-40**

After Baptizing the Ethiopian Eunuch – The Holy Spirit “caught Philip away”
What did Philip do? Go sightseeing? Visit the Mall? → He Preached the Gospel all the way up to his home in Caesarea (see Acts 21:8-10) – Lesson → Preach the Gospel (Matt. 28:18-20)

Who are the Samaritans? In 721 B.C. The Assyrian Captivity of the Northern 10 Tribes happened, which gave “birth” to the Samaritans in Samaria, Israel. Based upon 2 Kings 17:5-41 - the Samaritans are NOT Israelis, nor are they even related to Israel, genetically. They are a mixture of Gentiles, from various conquered nations/people groups, a mixture of pagans that mixed their various religions with the worship of Yahweh, God of Israel. This is their “religion”. It is similar to Islam or other religious mixtures. Compare this with John 4:5-26 (¹⁹ The woman said to Jesus, “Sir, I perceive that You are a prophet. ²⁰ Our fathers worshiped on this mountain, and you Jews say that in Jerusalem is the place where one ought to worship.” - Jesus’ answer: ²² “You worship what you do not know; we know who we worship, for salvation is of the Jews.”)

Acts 8:4-40: ⁴ Therefore those who were scattered went everywhere preaching the word. ⁵ Then Philip went down to the city of Samaria and **PREACHED** Christ to them. ⁶ And the multitudes with one accord **HEEDED** the things spoken by Philip, hearing and seeing the miracles which he did. ⁷ For unclean spirits, crying with a loud voice, came out of many who were possessed; and many who were paralyzed and lame were **HEALED**. ⁸ And there was **GREAT JOY** in that city.

⁹ **BUT** 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, ¹⁰ to whom they all gave heed, from the least to the greatest, saying, "This man is the **GREAT POWER** of God." ¹¹ And they heeded him because he had **ASTONISHED** them with his sorceries for a long time. ¹² **BUT** when they **BELIEVED** Philip as he preached the things concerning the kingdom of God and the Name of Jesus Christ, both men and women were baptized. ¹³ Then Simon himself also believed; and when he was baptized he continued with Philip, and was **AMAZED**, seeing the miracles and signs which were done. ¹⁴ Now when the apostles who were at Jerusalem **HEARD** that Samaria had **RECEIVED** the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them, ¹⁵ who, when they had come down, **PRAYED** for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit. ¹⁶ For as yet He had **FALLEN** upon **NONE** of them. They had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. ¹⁷ Then they laid hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

¹⁸ And when Simon **SAW** that through the laying on of the apostles' hands the Holy Spirit was given, he offered them money, ¹⁹ saying, "Give me this **POWER** also, that anyone on whom I lay hands may receive the Holy Spirit."

²⁰ But Peter said to him, "[May] Your money perish with you, **BECAUSE** you **THOUGHT** that the **GIFT** of God could be purchased with money! ²¹ You have neither **PART NOR PORTION** in this matter, for your **HEART IS NOT RIGHT** in the sight of God. ²² **REPENT** therefore of this your **WICKEDNESS**, and pray God if perhaps the thought of your heart may be **FORGIVEN** you. ²³ For I see that you are **POISONED** by **BITTERNESS** and **BOUND** by **INIQUITY**." ²⁴ Then Simon answered and said, "Pray to the Lord for me, that none of the things which you have spoken may come upon me."

²⁵ So when they had testified and preached the word of the Lord, they returned to Jerusalem, **PREACHING THE GOSPEL** in **MANY** villages of the **SAMARITANS**.

²⁶ Now an angel of the **LORD** spoke to Philip, saying, "Arise and go toward the south along the road which goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." This is desert. ²⁷ So he arose and went. And behold, a man of Ethiopia, a eunuch of great authority under Candace the queen of the Ethiopians, who had charge of all her treasury, and had come to Jerusalem to worship, ²⁸ was returning. And sitting in his chariot, he was reading Isaiah the prophet. ²⁹ Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go near and overtake this chariot."

³⁰ So Philip ran to him, and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah, and said, "Do you understand what you are reading?" ³¹ And he said, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he asked Philip to come up and sit with him. ³² The place in the Scripture which he read was this: "He was led as a sheep to the slaughter; and as a lamb before its shearer is silent, so He opened not His mouth. ³³ In His humiliation His justice was taken away, and who will declare His generation? For His life is taken from the earth."

³⁴ So the eunuch answered Philip and said, "I ask you, of whom does the prophet say this, of himself or of some other man?" ³⁵ Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning at this Scripture, **PREACHED** Jesus to him. ³⁶ Now as they went down the road, they came to some **WATER**. And the eunuch said, "See, here is **WATER**. What hinders me from being baptized?"

³⁷ Then Philip said, "If you believe with all your heart, you may." And he answered and said, "I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God."

³⁸ So he commanded the chariot to stand still. And both Philip and the eunuch **WENT DOWN INTO THE WATER**, and he baptized him. ³⁹ Now **WHEN THEY** came up out of the water, the Spirit of the **LORD** **CAUGHT** Philip away, so that the eunuch saw him no more; and he went on his way rejoicing. ⁴⁰ But Philip was found at Azotus. And passing through, he **PREACHED** in **ALL** the cities till he came to Caesarea.