

STUDY GUIDE

Acts 8:4-40

“The Scattering of God’s Word and Witness of the Spirit”

1) Persecution caused those in the first church in Jerusalem to be “scattered throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria” and “those who were scattered went about preaching the word.” (Acts 8:1,4).

- What opportunities do we have to share the gospel today?
- How can God increase the sphere of our influence for Jesus?
- How can God use seemingly negative circumstances in our lives today for His glory?

2) Philip and Stephen had been chosen to serve food to widows in the church but became better known for their public proclamation and witness of the gospel of Jesus Christ.

- What is your role in the church?
- How do you proclaim and witness the gospel of Jesus Christ to those in our community?

3) When Phillip was “scattered” to Samaria it would have been a city of marginalized people filled with a lot of religious folks who were influenced by Baal worship, Roman gods, sorcerers.

- How can we speak into the lives of those marginalized in our community?
- What spiritual issues we face in our community? How can we overcome those issues?

4) Simon the magician was a highly-respected prominent man in the city of Samaria who professed faith in Jesus Christ under Phillip’s ministry but who showed his faith to be counterfeit under Peter and John’s ministry.

- What was the difference between Phillip’s ministry and the apostle’s ministry?
- Why did Peter rebuke Simon? How did Simon respond? What did that say about his heart?
- How do we know the difference between a true faith or a counterfeit faith in Christ?

5) Peter and John, who came down and prayed for the new believers in Samaria because the Holy Spirit had not yet fallen on any of them, but they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.”

- What were the new followers of Jesus in Samaria missing?
- Why did God allow those new followers to have an incomplete experience with the Spirit?

6) After Phillip proclaimed Christ in Samaria, the Spirit of God “scattered” Phillip to proclaim the gospel in Gaza where he shared the gospel with an Ethiopian eunuch in a chariot, who came to faith in Jesus Christ.

- In what ways do we see the sovereign supernatural leading of God in this conversion story?
- What scripture was the eunuch reading from? What does this scripture tell us about Jesus?