

Acts 8:1-25 2026 – Saul Persecutes the Church; Christ is Preached in Samaria; The Sorcerer's Profession of Faith; The Sorcerer's Sin

7/25/26 – Sat. Morn. Prayer - P. Twente, 714 425-9221; ptwente@gmail.com <https://www.ptwente.com>

Last Week: *[Acts 7:59] And they stoned Stephen as he was calling on God and saying, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." [60] Then he knelt down and cried out with a loud voice, "Lord, do not charge them with this sin." And when he had said this, he fell asleep.*

ACTS 8:1-25: – Saul Ravages the Church

[1] Now Saul was consenting to his death. At that time a great persecution arose against the church which was at Jerusalem; and they were all scattered throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria, except the apostles. [2] And devout men carried Stephen to his burial, and made great lamentation over him. [3] As for Saul, he made havoc (brutal and sadistic cruelty) of the church, entering every house, and dragging off men and women, committing them to prison.

Philip Proclaims Christ in Samaria

[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.

Simon the Magician Believes

[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, "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 (commit to change) 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.

SUMMARY:

- **The early church was shocked and stunned by the martyrdom of Stephen and by the violent opposition** which followed. But, with the benefit of hindsight, we can see how God's providence used Stephen's testimony, in word and deed, through life and death, to promote the church's mission. What will be done for Christ through your life? Your death? vs. 1-4
- **Can you see how God used the faithfulness and willingness of Stephen to accomplish** God's providence? How faithful and willing are you? Am I? - vs. 4-5
- **So here is Philip, one of the original seven, "seven men of good reputation, full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom,"** not an apostle, but yet faithful where God has placed him, and now God is using him in a very powerful way. – Note Stephen and Philip! - vs. 5-7
- **There is always joy when revival** is occurring. – v. 8
- **When God is working in a mighty way, there always is a resistance** from the demonic enemy-Satan and his followers. - vs. 9-10
- **So Peter and John came. They had the gift of the laying on of hands** that people might receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For as yet He had fallen upon none of them. Now, notice they were believers. - vs. 14-17
- **They had been baptized, which would mean that the Holy Spirit was in them,** but He had not fallen, *epi*, upon them. That's one thing, the Spirit dwelling in you. It's quite another thing to have the Spirit flowing forth from you. The dynamic that flows forth from your life.
- **This is known as "Simony," from his name Simon.** It became a curse in the church. That is the buying of position, to have power within the church. – v. 18-24

Two important things in today's study:

- **1. The influence of one person (Philip) that is committed to the fulfilling the Great Commission.**
- **2. The story of Simon Magus making an outward profession but never really being born again**

PRAY TODAY FOR: (1Ti 2:1-4) *Therefore I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men, [2] for kings and all who are in authority, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence. [3] For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, [4] who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.*

THIS I BELIEVE - (The Creed) (3:43/3:46) Hillsong

Our Father everlasting The all-creating One God Almighty

Through your Holy Spirit Conceiving Christ the Son Jesus our Saviour

**(Refrain) I believe in God our Father I believe in Christ the Son I believe in the Holy Spirit
Our God is three in One I believe in the resurrection That we will rise again
For I believe in the Name of Jesus**

**Our Judge and our Defender Suffered and crucified Forgiveness is in You
Descended into darkness You rose in glorious light Forever seated high (Refrain)**

**I believe in You I believe You rose again I believe that Jesus Christ is Lord
I believe in life eternal I believe in the virgin birth I believe in the saints' communion
And in Your Holy Church I believe in the resurrection When Jesus comes again
For I believe in the Name of Jesus (Refrain)
For I believe in the Name of Jesus.**