

*Expositional Preaching from the Authorized Version of the Holy Bible*

Current Book: The Acts of the Apostles

**Quote** from *Church History*: “The trouble with people who are not seeking for a Savior, and for salvation, is that they do not understand the nature of sin. It is the peculiar function of the Law to bring such an understanding to a man's mind and conscience. That is why great evangelical preachers 300 years ago in the time of the puritans, and 200 years ago in the time of Whitefield and others, always engaged in what they called a preliminary law work.”  
- Dr. Martin Lloyd-Jones  
(1899-1981, Welsh preacher/pastor of Westminster Chapel in London for 30 years)

**Scriptures for Today: Acts 8:1-40**      Persecution scatters the church – *beware of the transition!*

**NOTES****PRINCIPLES**

1. Great persecution **SCATTERED** disciples to ***preach the Gospel*** beyond Jerusalem. 8:1-3

- ✓ The apostles ***stayed at Jerusalem*** (headquarters for the early Jewish church)...  
Acts 11:19-21; Daniel 3:16-18; 6:10, 23; Hebrews 11:27
- ✓ Saul made ***havock*** of the church...  
Acts 7:58; 8:1; 22:20; Galatians 1:13, 23

2. Philip went to **SAMARIA** – a ***major shift*** in direction – ***as Christ said*** they would. 8:4-8

- ✓ The disciples were scattered abroad and ***went everywhere preaching the word...***  
Acts 8:4; Philippians 1:12
- ✓ Philip preached Christ to the ***Samaritans...***  
Acts 1:8; John 4:5, 25, 39-42

**NOTE** We are not freaked out because Philip had the ability in the 1<sup>st</sup> century early church to do miracles in the land of Samaria – where half-Jews lived and were expecting the Messiah to come in the future. The sign gift was for these half-Jews to know that the Messiah did in fact come and He did all those things that the Jews were expecting Him to do including miracles and wonders. Remember, God is in the process of transitioning to the Gentiles in the book of Acts at this point, and He is making His way to Antioch which will become headquarters for the primarily Gentile church in Acts 11. Antioch is where the sign gifts will cease upon the official transition to the Gentiles from the Jews in the book of Acts.

3. God worked through **TRANSITIONS** for the ***Samaritans*** (half-***Jews***) that ***believed***. 8:9-24

- ✓ Those that ***believed*** were ***baptized*** – both men and women...  
Acts 2:41; 8:35-38; 16:14, 15, 31-34; Romans 10:10; 1 Peter 3:21

- ✓ The ***apostles were sent*** from Jerusalem to ***confirm*** the salvation of the ***Samaritans...***  
Acts 8:14-17; 19:6; 1 Corinthians 1:22; Acts 15:4

**NOTE** Beware of the way that God was dealing with the Samaritans who believed and who were half-Jews expecting the Messiah to come in the future based on the interaction between Jesus and the woman at the well in John 4. This is a unique thing that God did in the book of Acts as He was ultimately making a transition to the Gentiles. It is ***NOT sound doctrine*** to teach that someone has to lay hands on a person in order for them to receive the Holy Spirit at our time in church history. There are false cults everywhere on the planet today that teach that some elder in the church has to "lay hands on you" after you go through some classes and "believe" as they say in order for you to receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. If a church teaches that today, it is heresy!! Beware and do not be fooled!!

#### 4. Philip and the Ethiopian eunuch who **BELIEVED** in Christ and ***then was baptized***. 8:25-40

- ✓ Philip was ***sensitive to the Spirit's leading*** and ***immediately obeyed*** when called upon...  
"Arise and go" Joshua 1:2; 8:1; 1 Samuel 23:4; 2 Kings 1:3; Jeremiah 13:6; 18:2; Ezekiel 3:22; Jonah 1:2; 3:2; Acts 9:6, 11; 10:20
- ✓ God was ***drawing*** this Ethiopian to faith in His Son – Philip ***opened his mouth*** for God...  
John 6:44, 45, 65; 12:32; Jeremiah 31:3; Hosea 11:4; Romans 2:4; Matthew 16:17
- ✓ The Ethiopian ***believed first*** and then was ***baptized by immersion*** in the water...  
Acts 2:41; 8:35-38; 16:14, 15, 31-34; Romans 6:3-6; 10:10; 1 Peter 3:21; 1 Corinthians 12:13; Galatians 3:27; Ephesians 2:4-10; Colossians 2:12; Titus 3:5-7

**NOTE** It is important to note that the modern versions have omitted verse 37 from the Bible.

### **BEWARE: Things that are *not the same* are different.**

#### **Acts 8:36**

**KJV**

And as they went on their way, they came unto a certain water: and the eunuch said, See, here is water; what doth hinder me to be baptized?

#### **Acts 8:37**

**KJV**

And Philip said, If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest. And he answered and said, I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.

**NIV**

*No text available.*

**NKJV**

**Footnote:**  
\* NU-Text and M-Text omit this verse. It is found in Western texts, including the Latin tradition.

#### **Acts 8:38**

**KJV**

And he commanded the chariot to stand still: and they went down both into the water, both Philip and the eunuch: and he baptized him?

### PRACTICES

1. **Unbeliever**, listen to the voice of your **conscience** ***right now***.  
✓ Have you ***repented*** of your sins and ***put your faith*** in the Lord Jesus Christ for salvation?
2. **Believer**, what did the ***Holy Spirit of God*** speak to you about through His ***Holy Bible***?  
✓ What ***one thing*** does God want you to ***do*** or ***repent of*** right now?