



Acts 6-7

As we have been studying through the Book of Acts we have seen the majority of the book is a narrative.

Today we will study two stories of salvation in Acts
Chapter 8.

Acts 8:4 Therefore, those who had been scattered went about preaching the word. ⁵Philip went down to the city of Samaria and began proclaiming Christ to them. ⁶The crowds with one accord were giving attention to what was said by Philip, as they heard and saw the signs which he was performing. ⁷For in the case of many who had unclean spirits, they were coming out of them shouting with a loud voice; and many who had been paralyzed and lame were healed. ⁸So there was much rejoicing in that city.

To understand the first of the two stories we need to understand the history and meaning of Samaria (Samaritans).



A S S Y R I A

Tadmor

Tyre

Damascus

Shechem

Jerusalem

Babylon

Cuthah

Sepharvaim

Avva

Susa

Assyrian siege and resettlement of Samaria



Samaritans were people brought in by the Assyrians to resettle Samaria who intermarried with native Jews.

The problem with Samaritans is that they followed a different form of Judaism that was of their own creation.

John 4:19–23 (NASB95)

19The woman said to Him, “Sir, I perceive that You are a prophet.

20“Our fathers worshiped in this mountain, and you people say that in Jerusalem is the place where men ought to worship.”

21Jesus said to her, “Woman, believe Me, an hour is coming when neither in this mountain nor in Jerusalem will you worship the Father.

22“**You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews.**

23“**But an hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for such people the Father seeks to be His worshipers.**

To us it would be similar to Jehovah's Witness, Mormonism, or Church of the First Born; similar but not Biblical.

Acts 8:4–6 (NASB95)

4Therefore, those who had been scattered went about preaching the word.

5Philip went down to the city of Samaria and began proclaiming Christ to them.

6The crowds with one accord were giving attention to what was said by Philip, as they heard and saw the signs which he was performing.

Acts 8:7–8 (NASB95)

7For in the case of many who had unclean spirits, they were coming out of them shouting with a loud voice; and many who had been paralyzed and lame were healed.

8So there was much rejoicing in that city.

^{8:9}Now there was a man named Simon, who formerly was practicing magic in the city and astonishing the people of Samaria, claiming to be someone great; ¹⁰and they all, from smallest to greatest, were giving attention to him, saying, “This man is what is called the Great Power of God.”
¹¹And they were giving him attention because he had for a long time astonished them with his magic arts.

¹²But when they believed Philip preaching the good news about the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were being baptized, men and women alike. ¹³Even Simon himself believed; and after being baptized, he continued on with Philip, and as he observed signs and great miracles taking place, he was constantly amazed.

¹⁴Now when the apostles in Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent them Peter and John, ¹⁵who came down and prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit. ¹⁶For He had not yet fallen upon any of them; they had simply been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. ¹⁷Then they began laying their hands on them, and they were receiving the Holy Spirit.

**This passage has caused so much confusion
between believers.**

Is there a second part of being saved where someone has to lay hands on us to give us the Holy Spirit as evidence of our conversion?

1. Jesus breathed on the Holy Spirit into the disciples (John 20:22).

2. God breathed the Holy Spirit into the 120 in the upper room/Solomon's portico (Acts 2:1-13).

3. 3,000 saved after Peter's message
(Acts 2:37-47).

4. 5,000 saved through the message of Peter and John (Acts 4:4).

Acts 8:18–19 (NASB95)

18 Now when Simon saw that the Spirit was bestowed through the laying on of the apostles' hands, he offered them money,
19 saying, "Give this authority to me as well, so that everyone on whom I lay my hands may receive the Holy Spirit."

20But Peter said to him, “May your silver perish with you, because you thought you could obtain the gift of God with money! ²¹You have no part or portion in this matter, for your heart is not right before God.

²²Therefore repent of this wickedness of yours, and pray the Lord that, if possible, the intention of your heart may be forgiven you. ²³For I see that you are in the gall of bitterness and in the bondage of iniquity.”

²⁴But Simon answered and said, “Pray to the Lord for me yourselves, so that nothing of what you have said may come upon me.” ²⁵So, when they had solemnly testified and spoken the word of the Lord, they started back to Jerusalem, and were preaching the gospel to many villages of the Samaritans.

Counterfeit Conversion

Simon *believed* and was baptized.

Simon did not receive the Holy Spirit

Simon tried to purchase the gift of the Holy Spirit

Peter and John cursed Simon for his unbelieving heart.

Simon Magus did not repent.

Gift of the Holy Spirit

Samaritans received by laying on of hands from the Jews.

We are not done yet with the narrative of the Acts .

²⁶But an angel of the Lord spoke to Philip saying, “Get up and go south to the road that descends from Jerusalem to Gaza.” (This is a desert road.)

²⁷So he got up and went; and there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, who was in charge of all her treasure; and he had come to Jerusalem to worship, ²⁸and he was returning and sitting in his chariot, and was reading the prophet Isaiah.

²⁹Then the Spirit said to Philip, “Go up and join this chariot.” ³⁰Philip ran up and heard him reading Isaiah the prophet, and said, “Do you understand what you are reading?” ³¹And he said, “Well, how could I, unless someone guides me?” And he invited Philip to come up and sit with him.

³²Now the passage of Scripture which he was reading was this: *(Isaiah 53:7)*

“HE WAS LED AS A SHEEP TO SLAUGHTER; AND AS A LAMB BEFORE ITS SHEARER IS SILENT, SO HE DOES NOT OPEN HIS MOUTH. ³³IN HUMILIATION HIS JUDGMENT WAS TAKEN AWAY; WHO WILL RELATE HIS GENERATION? FOR HIS LIFE IS REMOVED FROM THE EARTH.”

³⁴The eunuch answered Philip and said, “Please tell me, of whom does the prophet say this? Of himself or of someone else?” ³⁵Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning from this Scripture he preached Jesus to him.

³⁶As they went along the road they came to some water; and the eunuch *said, “Look! Water! What prevents me from being baptized?” ³⁷[And 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.”] ³⁸And he ordered the chariot to stop; and they both went down into the water, Philip as well as the eunuch, and he baptized him.

³⁹When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; and the eunuch no longer saw him, but went on his way rejoicing.

⁴⁰But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he passed through he kept preaching the gospel to all the cities until he came to Caesarea.

What was the difference between Simon and the Ethiopian?

The Ethiopian was returning from worshiping God in Jerusalem.

The Ethiopian was pursuing the truth about God in the scriptures of Isaiah.

The Ethiopian was pursuing the truth about Jesus in the scriptures and rejoicing.