

Acts Chapter 8:15-40

Acts 8:15-23 Who, when they were come down, prayed for them, that they might receive the Holy Ghost: (16) (For as yet he was fallen upon none of them: only they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.) (17) Then laid they their hands on them, and they received the Holy Ghost. (18) And when Simon saw that through laying on of the apostles' hands the Holy Ghost was given, he offered them money, (19) Saying, Give me also this power, that on whomsoever I lay hands, he may receive the Holy Ghost. (20) But Peter said unto him, Thy money perish with thee, because thou hast thought that the gift of God may be purchased with money. (21) Thou hast neither part nor lot in this matter: for thy heart is not right in the sight of God. (22) Repent therefore of this thy wickedness, and pray God, if perhaps the thought of thine heart may be forgiven thee. (23) For I perceive that thou art in the gall of bitterness, and in the bond of iniquity.

Receive the Holy Ghost... This is a continuation of the ministry started by our Lord, who commissioned the Apostles to go forth with the same Spirit and Authority as He had once received from the Father.

The Holy Spirit was given to them to receive Power, and to remit sins. This gift was given through a breath. Compare with **Acts 2:38, 3:19, 5:31**.

Joh 20:21-23 Then said Jesus to them again, Peace be unto you: as my Father hath sent me, even so send I you. (22) And when he had said this, he breathed on them, and saith unto them, Receive ye the Holy Ghost: (23) Whose soever sins ye remit, they are remitted unto them; and whose soever sins ye retain, they are retained.

In the book of Acts, the Apostles must pass the gift & POWER of the Holy Spirit through laying on of *their* hands - and this pattern continues for the rest of the Acts ministry.

This ministry started in an upper room, at Pentecost (**Acts 1:8, 2:4**), with the original 70 members of the church, then extended to the orthodox believers of the day (**Acts 2:38**), and had grown larger than Jerusalem could handle (**Acts 4:32, 6:1**).

Act_6:6 Whom they set before the apostles: and when they had prayed, they laid their hands on them.

Act_8:17 Then laid they their hands on them, and they received the Holy Ghost.

Act_13:3 And when they had fasted and prayed, and laid their hands on them, they sent them away.

Acts Chapter 8:15-40

Act_19:6 And when Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Ghost came on them; and they spake with tongues, and prophesied.

Baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus... All believers who were baptized in the New Testament were baptized in the name of Jesus Christ ONLY. There is not ONE account of any believer being baptized per the requirements of **Matthew 28:18:20**.

Matthew 28:18-20 And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. (19) Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: (20) Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.

The one requirement for the nation of Israel to teach and baptize all nations, was their national repentance as discussed in Acts Chapter 2. For Israel to become a nation of priests, they needed to repent, and be converted.

We, the Body of Christ, preach of the same Holy Spirit, and the same water to baptize believers; but we preach of Christ in the context of a heavenly calling & kingdom - not an earthly calling. We today are called to ONE BAPTISM, when there are 6 other baptisms in the New Testament.

There are at least seven different baptisms in the Bible.

1. Baptism of Moses. **1 Cor 10:1-2**
2. Baptism of John/Repentance. **Mark 1:4-8; Act 13:24, 19:24**
3. Baptism of Suffering/The Cross. **Mark 10:38-39**
4. Baptism of Jesus. **Matt 3:13-17**
5. Baptism of Fire. **Matt 3:11-12**
6. Baptism with the Holy Ghost. **Matt 3:11, Mar 1:8; John 1:33.**
7. Baptism by the Spirit. **1 Cor 12:13; Eph 4:5; Rom 6:4; Col 2:12**

This baptism of POWER in the book of Acts was the baptism WITH the Holy Ghost. This baptism equipped those who believed with the POWER to produce the sign gifts and gave them a foretaste of the “powers of the world to come,” (**See Heb 6:5**)

John 20:20-23 And when he had so said, he shewed unto them his hands and his side. Then were the disciples glad, when they saw the Lord. (21) Then said Jesus to them again, Peace be unto you: as my Father hath sent me, even so send I you. (22) And when he had said this, he breathed on them, and saith unto them, Receive ye the Holy Ghost: (23) Whose soever sins ye remit, they are remitted unto them; and whose soever sins ye retain, they are retained.

Acts Chapter 8:15-40

Our Lords equipping of the 12 began in John Chapter 20 when the Spirit was breathed upon the Apostles. Just as the Father sent and equipped Christ, Christ sent and equipped those He had chosen. Water baptism was a sign that the believer's sins were remitted.

This is NOT the message OR the baptism we have today. There is only ONE baptism (**Eph 4:5**) and that is DEATH (**Rom 6:4**) which places us, by the Spirit, into the body of Christ (**Col 2:12**). Water Baptism is *still* a picture of the Spiritual Truth.

Laying on of the apostles' hands... The act of laying on of hands was how the POWER of the Holy Spirit (**Acts 1:8**) was given under the administration of the Kingdom. It was the way believers were both commissioned and equipped for the work of the ministry.

It is possible that only some of the Believers were given this gift & ministry, as Simon may not have been included in the *giving of the Holy Ghost*.

Peter and the 11 were the center of God's redemptive plan for the World and thus had the power to remit sins and equip the early believers for the ministry. Those that are equipped have the proper heart for it (**Acts 8:22**). **Mar 16:17-20; Mat_18:18; Joh_20:23; 1Co_5:4-5; Rev_11:6**

Repent... To repent means to turn around, but carries the connotation of returning to a once known position.

The English word for **REPENT** comes from the Old French - *repentir*, from re-, here probably an intensive prefix (see re-), + Vulgar Latin **penitire* "to regret," from Latin *poenitere* "make sorry," from *poena* (see penal).

RE: to REPEAT, back to the original place; again, anew, once more.

PENT: to REGRET, make sorry.

You cannot REPENT of something you are ignorant of. How can you be re-sorryied without first being sorry?

Simon believed, and was converted, yet his heart was not right in the sight of God. Simon's past was holding him hostage as the dreadful effects of sin in the soul creep into our lives as bitterness; *bitter repentance, bitter regret, bitter sufferings, bitter death, etc., etc., which sin produces.*

The **Bond of Iniquity** is the result of bitterness. Sin is often represented as "*bondage*" and "*captivity*," **Psa_116:16; Pro_5:22**, "*He shall be holden with the cords of his sins*"; **Rom_7:23-24**. Simon's sin was that of rebellion against God. **I Sam 15:23**.

Romans 7:23-25 But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members. (24) O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death? (25) I thank God through Jesus
paulmonsef@msn.com

Acts Chapter 8:15-40

Christ our Lord. So then with the mind I myself serve the law of God; but with the flesh the law of sin.

Acts 8:24-25 Then answered Simon, and said, Pray ye to the Lord for me, that none of these things which ye have spoken come upon me. (25) And they, when they had testified and preached the word of the Lord, returned to Jerusalem, and preached the gospel in many villages of the Samaritans.

Simon was a practical person; he wanted all the prayer he could get. Prayer will keep you from bitterness, and the chains of sin.

Samaritans... Prior to our Lord's ascension, the disciples were instructed to abstain from dealing with the Samaritans. This was the proper way for the nation of Israel to proceed as the Jew's and Samaritans disliked each other and had no dealings together; salvation had to first come to the house of Israel.

Matthew 10:5-15 These twelve Jesus sent forth, and commanded them, saying, Go not into the way of the Gentiles, and into any city of the Samaritans enter ye not: (6) But go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. (7) And as ye go, preach, saying, The kingdom of heaven is at hand. (8) Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out devils: freely ye have received, freely give...

The Samaritans were formerly comprised of the ten tribes of Israel. When the ten tribes were carried away into captivity, the King of Assyria sent people from *Cutha, Ava, Hamath, and Sepharvaim* to inhabit their country, **2Ki_17:24; Ezz_4:2-11**.

Those who reinhabited the land of Samaria first worshipped the idols of their own nations; but, being troubled with lions, which had increased greatly (**1 Ki 17:26**), they supposed it was because they had not honored the God of the country. A Jewish priest was therefore sent to them from Babylon to instruct them in the Jewish religion. They were instructed partially from the books of Moses, but still retained many of their old rites and idolatrous customs, and embraced a religion made up of Judaism and idolatry, **2Ki_17:26-28**.

The "*Samaritans*" intermarried with the pagans, a point of contention between them and the *pure blooded* Jews, that had continued down to the woman at the well of **John 4**.

Acts Chapter 8:15-40

Philip and the Ethiopian Eunuch

Acts 8:26-31 And the angel of the Lord spake unto Philip, saying, Arise, and go toward the south unto the way that goeth down from Jerusalem unto Gaza, which is desert. (27) And he arose and went: and, behold, a man of Ethiopia, an eunuch of great authority under Candace queen of the Ethiopians, who had the charge of all her treasure, and had come to Jerusalem for to worship, (28) Was returning, and sitting in his chariot read Esaias the prophet. (29) Then the Spirit said unto Philip, Go near, and join thyself to this chariot. (30) And Philip ran thither to him, and heard him read the prophet Esaias, and said, Understandest thou what thou readest? (31) And he said, How can I, except some man should guide me? And he desired Philip that he would come up and sit with him.

Gaza... Gaza was a city of the Philistines, given by Joshua to Judah **Jos_15:47; 1Sa_6:17**. It was one of the five principal cities of the Philistines. It was near Askelon, about 60 miles southwest from Jerusalem and was about two miles and a half from the sea-side.

It was the last town which a traveler passed through as he went from Phoenicia to Egypt and was at the entrance into a wilderness.



Acts Chapter 8:15-40

Ethiopia... This Eunuch was approximately 2,230 miles away from home, he had traveled about 2,300 miles to worship the one true God.

In **1Ki 10:1**, etc., we have the account of the visit paid to Solomon by the queen of Sheba, the person to whom our Lord refers, **Mat_12:42**, and **Luk_11:31**. Sheba was SOUTH of Ethiopia.

Luk_11:31 The queen of the south shall rise up in the judgment with the men of this generation, and condemn them: for she came from the utmost parts of the earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon; and, behold, a greater than Solomon is here.



The Spirit said... It should be noted that Philip received his instructions directly from the Spirit, as an audible voice. This is not so for the believer today.

Acts Chapter 8:15-40

Acts 8:32-37 The place of the scripture which he read was this, He was led as a sheep to the slaughter; and like a lamb dumb before his shearer, so opened he not his mouth: (33) In his humiliation his judgment was taken away: and who shall declare his generation? for his life is taken from the earth. (34) And the eunuch answered Philip, and said, I pray thee, of whom speaketh the prophet this? of himself, or of some other man? (35) Then Philip opened his mouth, and began at the same scripture, and preached unto him Jesus. (36) 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? (37) 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.

Isaiah... The proselyte from Ethiopia was reading Isaiah 53, which is a prophecy about the Rejected and Suffering Redeemer of Israel.

Isaiah 53:5 But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.

Baptized... Isaiah 53 mentioned nothing of water baptism, undoubtedly, Philip mentions the requirements of water for the remission of sins of the Jewish believer.

Water was used in the Old Testament as a picture of becoming clean; of the priests, of the healed lepers, etc... It was a picture of purification. The washings symbolized cleansing from sin and guilt. Whereas sacrifices were to atone for acts of sin, washing or bathing seems generally associated with cleansing from a sinful or otherwise unholy condition.

Act_22:16 And now why tarriest thou? arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord.

The Ethiopian Eunuch must have heard of John's Baptism of Repentance, as well as the Holy One's baptism of the Spirit and Fire!

Acts Chapter 8:15-40

Acts 8:38-40 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. (39) And when they were come up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord caught away Philip, 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.

Baptism in the Old Testament was mainly by ritual washings; the washings were symbolic of the supposed purification from sin that the ritual was producing. The wording and testimony here in Acts 8 does not prove or disprove baptism by immersion, both Philip & the Ethiopian went DOWN into the water and came UP out of the water.

You have two choices of interpretation here; the water was lower than the road being traveled so that they both traveled "down to the river" or they were both baptized by immersion and went *down into* the water.

See **Act_8:29**. The Spirit had suggested to Philip to go to meet the eunuch, and the same Spirit, now directed his departure.

The Spirit of the Lord caught away Philip as soon as they came up out of the water, Philip was raptured 70 miles north into Azotus. It was the same Spirit what caught John's spirit up into heaven. **2Co_12:2, 2Co_12:4**

(REV 1:10) I WAS IN THE SPIRIT ON THE LORD'S DAY, AND HEARD BEHIND ME A GREAT VOICE, AS OF A TRUMPET,

IN THE SPIRIT: John was NOT taken into the 3rd Heaven in his body, but he was there in his spirit, by the Spirit of the Lord. Your Spirit is a part of YOU, it is eternally tied to your SOUL, that which brings LIFE to your body. Which is why Paul says in 1 Cor 12 that he was unsure if the above account was in the body or OUT of the body.

You can, and some have, had out of body experiences. How is this possible? Your spirit is you, it is the personality within you and is the very seat of all that defines you. Your soul on the other hand is what brings life to your mortal body, it's the seat of your mind, your will, and your emotions.

When God created us in his image. He gave us a Body, a Soul (mind, will and emotion) and a Spirit. We are a small replica of the infinite God. God exists in, and around, and beyond the physical. He dwells among trees, but God is not a tree. That's pantheism!

Acts Chapter 8:15-40

We consist of a spiritual body, within a natural body. The Bible speaks of the EARTHY (or NATURAL) man and the HEAVENLY (or SPIRITUAL) man.

If your nature consisted only of a spirit being, you could float around, and think, you would have a mind, you could talk, be sad, or glad. But you would have no physical body to communicate with the natural word (unless you moved something natural). As when Satan talked to Eve, He needed to speak through a serpent.

Spirits need to enter into FLESH and BLOOD to feel comforted, they even prefer PIGS over a nomadic lifestyle with no body to dwell in, **Mat 8:31**.

So not only are you 'flesh and blood', you are also a SPIRIT being. Sometimes we read of people who die in the operating room and rise out of their body, they SEE & THINK and LEARN. So what is it that leaves the body? It's the spirit.

It could be that Paul helped John along the way, **Rev 19:10**, or that Paul was boasting on himself in the third person. The point is your spirit can leave your body giving you an out of body experience.

But the Lord, with working within His Kingdom, generally takes the entire body. As he did with Ezekiel.

Eze_3:14 So the spirit lifted me up, and took me away, and I went in bitterness, in the heat of my spirit; but the hand of the LORD was strong upon me.

Eze_8:3 And he put forth the form of an hand, and took me by a lock of mine head; and the spirit lifted me up between the earth and the heaven, and brought me in the visions of God to Jerusalem, to the door of the inner gate that looketh toward the north; where was the seat of the image of jealousy, which provoketh to jealousy.

Eze 11:1 Moreover the spirit lifted me up, and brought me unto the east gate of the LORD'S house, which looketh eastward: and behold at the door of the gate five and twenty men; among whom I saw Jaazaniah the son of Azur, and Pelatiah the son of Benaiah, princes of the people.

When God speaks to you, it is through your spirit.

Rom 8:15-16 For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father. (16) The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God: