

Acts 8:9-25  
Cross Brand C3:16  
5.5.26

Sources: John MacArthur/H.A. Ironside/The Bible Knowledge  
Commentary/Dr Tony Evans/gotquestions.org

The goal is Acts 1:8

Jerusalem, Samaria, Judea, all the earth

“Who were the Samaritans” gotquestions.org

Grounds for animosity between the Israelites and Samaritans were the following:

1. The Jews, after their return from Babylon, began rebuilding their temple. While Nehemiah was engaged in building the walls of Jerusalem, the Samaritans vigorously attempted to halt the undertaking ([Nehemiah 6:1-14](#)).
2. The Samaritans built a temple for themselves on “[Mount Gerizim](#),” which the Samaritans insisted was designated by Moses as the place where the nation should worship. Sanballat, the leader of the Samaritans, established his son-in-law, Manasses, as high priest.
3. Samaria became a place of refuge for all the outlaws of Judea ([Joshua 20:6-7](#); [21:21](#)).
4. The Samaritans received only the five books of Moses and rejected the writings of the prophets and all the Jewish traditions.

From these causes arose an irreconcilable difference between them, so that the Jews regarded the Samaritans as the worst of the human race ([John 8:48](#)) and had no dealings with them ([John 4:9](#)).

#### I. Introducing Simon, the sorcerer

<sup>9</sup> A man named Simon had previously practiced sorcery in that city and amazed the Samaritan people, while claiming to be somebody great. <sup>10</sup> They all paid attention to him, from the least of them to the greatest, and they said, “This man is called the Great Power of God.”<sup>[b]</sup> <sup>11</sup> They were attentive to him because he had amazed them with his sorceries for a long time. <sup>12</sup> But when

they believed Philip, as he proclaimed the good news about the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, both men and women were baptized. <sup>13</sup> Even Simon himself believed. And after he was baptized, he followed Philip everywhere and was amazed as he observed the signs and great miracles that were being performed.

A. Who was Simon?

Powerful man

A sorcerer

Founded Gnosticism

Viewed himself as “someone special”

Very interested in the power of the gospel

Made a “profession of faith”

Made no change in spiritual direction

B. Application:

There is a difference between belief about Jesus and belief in Jesus.

We must examine ourselves.

II. Simon attempts to buy the power of the gospel

<sup>14</sup> When the apostles who were at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them. <sup>15</sup> After they went down there, they prayed for them so that the Samaritans might receive the Holy Spirit because he had not yet come down on any of them. <sup>16</sup> (They had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.) <sup>17</sup> Then Peter and John laid their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

<sup>18</sup> When Simon saw that the Spirit<sup>[c]</sup> was given through the laying on of the apostles' hands, he offered them money, <sup>19</sup> saying, “Give me this power also so that anyone I lay hands on may receive the Holy Spirit.”

III. Simon faced a strong rebuke

<sup>18</sup> When Simon saw that the Spirit<sup>[c]</sup> was given through the laying on of the apostles' hands, he offered them money,

<sup>19</sup> saying, “Give me this power also so that anyone I lay hands on may receive the Holy Spirit.”

<sup>20</sup> But Peter told him, “May your silver be destroyed with you, because you thought you could obtain the gift of God with money!

<sup>21</sup> You have no part or share in this matter, because your heart is not right before God.

<sup>22</sup> Therefore repent of this wickedness of yours, and pray to the Lord that, if possible, your heart’s intent may be forgiven. <sup>23</sup> For I see you are poisoned by bitterness and bound by wickedness.”

<sup>24</sup> “Pray to the Lord for me,” Simon replied, “so that nothing you have said may happen to me.”

#### A. The rebuke from Peter

”But Peter said to him, “To hell with you and your money! How dare you think you could buy the gift of God!”

He was held accountable for his hypocrisy

He had no real repentance

II Cor 7:9-10 I now rejoice, not because you were grieved, but because your grief led to repentance. For you were grieved as God willed, so that you didn’t experience any loss from us. <sup>10</sup> For godly grief produces a repentance that leads to salvation without regret, but worldly grief produces death.

He may have struggled with pride

Proverbs 6:16 The Lord hates six things;  
in fact, seven are detestable to him:  
<sup>17</sup> arrogant eyes, a lying tongue,

#### B. Application

We must use discernment in evaluating a person’s spiritual condition.

We must rely on other believers to discern spiritual authenticity

We must repent directly to God when we sin and repent.

Luke 18: <sup>13</sup>“But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even raise his eyes to heaven but kept striking his chest and saying, ‘God, have mercy on me, <sup>[f]</sup> a sinner!’

IV. The gospel continues to be shared to the Samaritans

<sup>25</sup> So, after they had testified and spoken the word of the Lord, they traveled back to Jerusalem, preaching the gospel in many villages of the Samaritans.

Peter and John are the “they”

Peter and John would want to report to the other apostles and church what happened.

For accountability  
To Celebrate

V. Problematic areas in the text.

<sup>14</sup> When the apostles who were at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them. <sup>15</sup> After they went down there, they prayed for them so that the Samaritans might receive the Holy Spirit because he had not yet come down on any of them. <sup>16</sup> (They had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.) <sup>17</sup> Then Peter and John laid their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

A. Challenge areas

The Holy Spirit had already filled believers on Pentecost so why not the Samaritans immediately at salvation?

The Holy Spirit must be in us for us to truly be believers.

Romans 8:9 You, however, are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God lives in you. If anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to him.

The Holy Spirit is received now at the time of salvation

I Cor 12:13 For we were all baptized by<sup>[a]</sup> one Spirit into one body—whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free—and we were all given one Spirit to drink.

B. Explanations:

The Holy Spirit was given to the Samaritans for the sake of unity (in the body of Christ)

Gal 3:28 There is no Jew or Greek, slave or free, male and female; since you are all one in Christ Jesus.

The Holy Spirit was given later so that Peter and John could authenticate the conversion to the other apostles in Jerusalem

The Holy Spirit would come separately salvation one more time in church history.

The gentiles!

Acts 10:44-46 While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit came down on all those who heard the message. <sup>45</sup> The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were amazed because the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles. <sup>46</sup> For they heard them speaking in tongues<sup>[a]</sup> and declaring the greatness of God.,

19:1 While Apollos was in Corinth, Paul traveled through the interior regions and came to Ephesus. He found some disciples <sup>2</sup> and asked them, “Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?”

“No,” they told him, “we haven’t even heard that there is a Holy Spirit.”

Close:

“As we pursue our study of this book, we shall see the river of grace widening until it reaches the uttermost part of the earth” H.A. Ironside

