

A CONFLICT OF VISIONS FOR THE CHURCH  
Acts 8:9-25 (CSB)

1. A HUMANISTIC Vision

*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>11</sup> They were attentive to him because he had amazed them with his sorceries for a long time.*

Acts 8:9-11 (CSB)

*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.*

Acts 8:12-13 (CSB)

*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.*

Acts 8:14-17 (CSB)

*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." <sup>3</sup> "Into what then were you baptized?" he asked them. "Into John's baptism," they replied. <sup>4</sup> Paul said, "John baptized with a baptism of repentance, telling the people that they should believe in the one who would come after him, that is, in Jesus." <sup>5</sup> When they heard this, they were baptized into the name of the Lord Jesus. <sup>6</sup> And when Paul had laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they began to speak in tongues and to prophesy.*

Acts 19:1-6 (CSB)

*When Simon saw that the Spirit 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."*

Acts 8:18-19 (CSB)

2. A HEAVENLY Vision

*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."<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.*

Acts 8:20-25 (CSB)

It is the SPIRIT of GOD that GROWS a church. Not money, power, skill, influence, or anything else.

*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.*

Acts 8:25 (CSB)

*If we have put our hope in Christ for this life only, we should be pitied more than anyone.*

1 Corinthians 15:19 (CSB)

*The seventy-two returned with joy, saying, "Lord, even the demons submit to us in your name."<sup>18</sup> He said to them, "I watched Satan fall from heaven like lightning."<sup>19</sup> Look, I have given you the authority to trample on snakes and scorpions and over all the power of the enemy; nothing at all will harm you."<sup>20</sup> However, don't rejoice that the spirits submit to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven."*

Luke 10:17-20 (CSB)