



Acts: To the Ends of the Earth

Acts 8:1-25

Introduction

❖ Acts 1:8—*But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.*

1. God uses great persecution to bring about great joy (8:1-8)
2. Counterfeit Conversion: Simon the Magician (8:9-25)
3. Genuine Conversion: The Ethiopian Eunuch (26-40)

God uses great persecution to bring about great joy

❖ **Acts 8:1-8**

❖ Psalm 13:1-4—*How long, O Lord? Will you forget me forever? How long will you hide your face from me? How long must I take counsel in my soul and have sorrow in my heart all the day? How long shall my enemy be exalted over me? Consider and answer me, O Lord my God; light up my eyes, lest I sleep the sleep of death, lest my enemy say, "I have prevailed over him," lest my foes rejoice because I am shaken.*

❖ Genesis 50:20—*As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today*

Counterfeit Conversion

1. Who the person was

❖ Romans 6:1-2—*What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound? By no means! How can we who died to sin still live in it?*

❖ **Acts 8:9-11**

2. Belief that looks like...belief

❖ **Acts 8:12-13**

❖ John 1:13—*...not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.*

3. The absence of Holy Spirit

❖ **Acts 8:14-17**

❖ Ezekiel 36:26-27—*I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my rules.*



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4. Counterfeit conversion exposed

❖ **Acts 8:18-25**

5. What to do with counterfeit conversion

❖ **Acts 8:21-23**

1. Call it out

- ❖ Romans 6:6-7—*We know that our old self was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin. For one who has died has been set free from sin.*

2. Call them to repent