

## JESUS AND HIS ACTS THROUGH YOU

### The book of Acts study

#### Part 6

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June 7, 2015

*"I can guarantee this truth, those who believe in me will do these things that I am doing. They will do greater things because I am going to the Father."*

John 14:12 (GW)

### **That first church in the book of Acts gives us some great values that the church today should have!**

1. They realized that Jesus was alive from the dead and lived like it!
2. They knew Jesus had gone to heaven and was now at the Father's right hand praying for them. (They were devoted to prayer and the word also)
3. They realized they could not do the work Jesus had given them or spread the message without being empowered and staying full of the Holy Spirit.
4. They were living in very turbulent times in History and believed Jesus was coming back for them in their generation and lived like it!

### **Acts chapter 8 highlights:**

- After Stephan was martyred great persecution broke out against the church in Jerusalem.
- The persecution scattered the believers though out Judea and Samaria.
- Saul of Tarsus (Paul) began to persecute and destroy the church by having men and women put in prison.
- The believers that were scattered began to spread the message (the gospel) everywhere they went.
- Philip one of the seven like Stephan went to a city in Samaria and proclaimed Jesus as the Messiah there.
- Philip began to do the acts of Jesus with sign and many healings and many people were set free from evil spirits. So many people paid attention to what he was saying and there was great joy in that city!
- A man named Simon practiced sorcery in the city of Samaria and amazed many people by the power he had.
- But when Philip proclaimed the Good News of the Kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ many people received the message and were baptized including Simon.
- When the apostles heard what was happening in Samaria, they came and prayed for the new believers to receive the fullness of the Holy Spirit through the laying on of hands.
- When Simon saw the power of the Holy Spirit through the laying on of hands he offered the apostles money to have that ability.

- Peter rebukes Simon for thinking he could buy the gift of God with money.
- Peter tells Simon to repent because his heart is not right with God and pray that God will forgive him for such evil thoughts.
- Peter tells Simon, "I see you are full of bitterness and captive to sin."
- Then an angel of the Lord tells Philip to go to a particular desert road near Jerusalem and there he meets an Ethiopian eunuch.
- This eunuch was in charge of the treasury for the Queen of Ethiopia and was going to Jerusalem to worship and was reading the book of Isaiah.
- The Holy Spirit tells Phillip to go up near to the chariot of this official
- Phillip near the chariot asks him, "Do you understand what you are reading?" And the man says no unless someone explains it to me.
- So Philip explains the Good News about Jesus as the Messiah from Isaiah 53:7-8.
- The eunuch believes and asks Philip if he can be baptized. So they stop the chariot by a stream and Philip baptizes him.
- After they come out of the water the Holy Spirit takes Philip away and then Philip appears in Azotus preaching the gospel until he reaches Caesarea.

#### **What can we learn from Acts chapter 8 that help us today?**

- 1. As believers we are meant to take the message of Jesus (the gospel) out from our Jerusalem to our Judea and Samaria. (Often pressure helps)**  
*"...You will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." Acts 1:8 (NIV)*
- 2. The message of Jesus (the gospel) with the acts of Jesus causes people to listen and brings great joy to an area!**  
*"When the crowds heard Philip and saw the signs he performed they paid close attention...so there was great joy in that city." Acts 8:6,8 (NIV)*
- 3. God's power is much greater than any evil power and you cannot buy God's power for money. Your heart needs to be right!**  
*"Peter answered: "May your money perish with you, because you thought you could buy the gift of God with money!" Acts 8:20 (NIV)*
- 4. We need to stay full of the Holy Spirit to spread God's message effectively!**  
*"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you and you will be my witnesses..." Acts 1:8 (NIV)*