



## Acts - The Expansion of the Church - The Church Expands

### Acts 8:1-25

#### Discussion Questions for April 26th, 2026

1. This marks a transition in the book of Acts, as the church grows beyond Jerusalem, so we're done with Part 1 now. As you look back on all we've learned, what sticks out to you the most from Acts 1-7? What key events are the most memorable? What key learnings have made the most difference in your day-to-day life?
2. **Main Idea: God scatters his people to gather more people for himself.** Take a look at Genesis 12:3, Isaiah 49:6, and Psalm 67:2-4. How do these passages hint at what takes place in Acts 8? Is this the fulfillment of those passages, or is there more to come?
3. **Here are Seven Characteristics of a Christian:**
  1. Christians Talk About Jesus
  2. Christians Unite Around Jesus
  3. Christians Are Joyful
  4. Christians Are Amazed by Jesus
  5. Christians Are Filled By the Holy Spirit
  6. Christians Come to Jesus For Free
  7. Christians Repent
    - o Which of the 7 characteristics of a Christian seem like the most obvious or natural? Which of the 7 seem a little more specific or less obvious outside of Acts 8? Which do you see most often in your Christian brothers and sisters? Which are a little more rare in those around you? Why do you think that is the case?
4. Many of the problems the Jews had with the Samaritans were legitimate religious concerns, not just blind prejudice. For instance, Samaritans rejected 34 of the 39 books in the Old Testament as actually being Scripture! However, when Jesus was preached, they united around him. Who are the "Samaritans" of today? Can you think of people (or groups of people) that would never unite except through Jesus?

5. Fact checks: Pastor Shaen mentioned Judea and Samaria are north and south of Jerusalem. Which is north and which is south? (Samaria is north, Judea surrounds Jerusalem and extends south) What's on the north side of Samaria? (Galilee) There was joy in the city, but what's the city name? (Doesn't say, but probably Samaria. It was the name of the region and also the capital city. During the Roman period the city was renamed Sebaste).
6. The people were amazed at Simon the Magician's tricks, then amazed at the signs and wonders the Holy Spirit performed. What amazes people today? If we don't see as many of the same signs and wonders today, what amazes people about Jesus?
7. Read Simon's response to Peter in verse 24. Is this a sign of repentance? He seems to believe that the Lord has power when he asks Peter to pray, so does that mean he accepts Jesus authentically now? Why or why not?
8. Pray that Jesus amazes people around us as they encounter him. Pray that we are talking about Jesus with joyful hearts so that everyone around us can know Him. Pray that the Lord continues to gather more people to himself even if we need to scatter to make it happen.