

Acts 8:1-9:31 - Daily Study Questions (cont)

<p>4. In Acts 8:18-25 what did Simon request (v18-19) and how did Peter respond (v20)? What was his problem (v21, 23) and Peter's solution (v21-22)? What did he do (v24)? Apply.</p>	
<p>5. Based on 8:26-40 what did the apostles (v25) and Philip (v26) do next? Describe Philip's encounter—who led him (v26, 29), who he met and what he was doing (v27-28), Philip's explanation (v29-35) and the outcome (v36-40).</p>	
<p>6. According to 9:1-9 what was Saul doing (v1-2) and what and who stopped him cold (v3-4)? What was Jesus' answer to Saul (v5-6) and what were the immediate results (v7-9)? What can we learn from this encounter?</p>	
<p>7. Read 9:10-19. What "job" did Jesus give Ananias (v10-12) and how did he react (v13-14)? What did Jesus say (v15-16), what did Ananias do (v17) and what resulted (v18-19)?</p>	
<p>8. Using 9:19-25 who was Saul with next (v19) and what did he do (v20)? What was the reaction and why (v21), Saul's pattern (v22) and the outcome (v23-25)? Compare this with 9:16.</p>	
<p>9. From 9:26-30 where did Saul then go and how was he treated (v25)? Who intervened (v27), what was the result (v28) and what did it cause (v29)? Where did this lead Saul (30)?</p>	
<p>10. In 9:31 how far had the church spread and what were the three descriptions of the conditions? To what did this lead?</p>	
<p>11. Looking back over Acts 8-9. What specific opposition came against the church and how did God deal with it? What were the specific outcomes? What can we learn from this section about dealing with opposition?</p>	

Scripture to Remember

"So the church throughout all Judea and Galilee and Samaria enjoyed peace, being built up; and, going on in the fear of the Lord and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit, it continued to increase."
Acts 9:31 (NASV)

Celebration Fellowship

Help—Hope—Healing

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Life Group Questions—Is It Live, Or Is it Memorex? (Acts 8:1-24)

(Using questions from Sunday's message, Life Groups meet in homes to build supportive relationships with others at Celebration Fellowship that enable us to grow in Christ.)

1. Share with the group one of the greatest "magic tricks" you've ever seen. What is the most miraculous thing you have ever experienced? What's the difference?
2. Read Acts 8:1-5. What resulted from the persecution of the early believers? Was this good? Have you ever had adversity lead you to a positive change in your life?
3. Define the "gospel". Discuss some of the ways we can "proclaim" it every day. What are some of the steps we can take to develop this lifestyle?
4. Talk about the difference between "nominal" believers and those who are genuine—how does their object of faith and their objective of faith differ? How can we know for sure about ourselves?
5. Other than by false believers, talk about other ways that the gospel gets watered down—through the "wimpy", the "worldly" and the "wealthy" gospel. How can we follow Peter's example of protecting the gospel from false presentations?
6. Why must we prioritize the gospel? What should this look like in our lives? On a scale of 1-10 share how well you are doing this.
7. Share about anything else meaningful from the message if you have time.



MANIFEST DESTINY

Studies in Acts

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Growing in Spirit & Truth

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Spreading Like Wildfire Acts 8:1-9:31

The 5 Purposes of the Purpose Driven Life

- **Worship**—You were planned for God’s pleasure
- **Fellowship**—You were formed for God’s family
- **Discipleship**—You were created to become like Christ
- **Ministry**—You were shaped for serving God
- **Evangelism**—You were made for a mission

Just like a powerful fire in the outdoors when a force seems unstoppable it is said to be spreading like wildfire. As the early church preached the message of Christ, it experienced this phenomenon. Every attempt to squelch it not only failed, it led to greater growth. This week’s study shows this in the aftermath of Stephen’s martyrdom. While the persecution of the church intensified, led by Saul, the church, scattering from Jerusalem, continued to grow. This involved countering false opposition as Philip, one of the “deacons”, went to Samaria preaching and performing miracles. As many in the city believed, a magician, Simon, apparently did as well. However, when the apostles came from Jerusalem to authorize God’s work in Samaria and complete the conversions,

the Holy Spirit fell on the Samaritans as He had at Pentecost. Simon offered to buy this “gift”, but Peter rebuked him and told him to repent of his bitterness, which he seemed to do. The apostles then returned to Jerusalem, but the Spirit sent Philip to Gaza where he encountered an Ethiopian eunuch who was reading a prophecy from Isaiah. Philip explained the meaning, preaching Jesus to him, and he was saved. Then, the eunuch saw some water and asked to be baptized, which Philip did. Next, Saul was converted as he journeyed to Damascus to persecute more Christians. The Lord blinded him with a bright light, asked him why he was opposing Him, and told him to go to the city and wait. He then led Ananias to go to him to help him regain



The manifest destiny of disciples is to recapture the world for Jesus.

his sight and reveal that Saul would suffer greatly for His name, being sent to Gentiles, kings and the sons of Israel. Once Saul’s eyes were reopened he immediately began proclaiming Christ, but had to evade a murder plot by the Jews and overcome ostracism by his fellow Christians. When Barnabas helped him do this, he began to speak boldly again, but then another death attempt was discovered on his life and he was sent to Caesarea. So, the church continued to grow, enjoying peace, walking in the fear of the Lord and the comfort of the Holy Spirit. It was spreading like wildfire.

Study Questions for Acts 8:1-9:31

(For answers go to [http://www.celebrationnet.com/abf.html/study questions](http://www.celebrationnet.com/abf.html/study%20questions))

<p>1. Read Acts 8:1-8. What were 3 results of Stephen’s death (v1-2, 3, 4) and who led each (v3, 5)? Where did Philip go (v5), what did he say (v5), and what did he do (v6-7)? What resulted (v8)?</p>	
<p>2. From 8:9-13 what else was occurring in Samaria (v9, 11) and who was getting the glory (v9, 10)? Why did this change (v12) and how did it affect Simon (v13)?</p>	
<p>3. Using 8:14-17 what was the apostles’ response to the “revival” in Samaria (v14, 15, 17)? Why (v16)? Since we now receive the Spirit at salvation (1 Cor 12:13), why do you think it occurred like this then?</p>	

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