

The Acts of the Apostles 8

ASVh with Comments

Summary. In this chapter, the Holy Spirit reveals how the believers from the Jerusalem church were scattered and began sharing the good news about the Lord Jesus with outsiders. **Acts 8:1-3.** Stephen is buried and Saul mistreats the church. People who had faith buried Stephen and had made a great lamentation in remembrance of him. Now, the dark thought was that they could undermine the work of the Lord God Almighty by persecuting and separating all the believers from one another, thereby creating fear. Saul, influenced by the dark, did bad things toward the Lord God Almighty, and he mistreated the church in Jerusalem. However, Saul's heart was stirred up by the Holy Spirit at the death of Stephen. **Acts 8:4-8,12.** Philip proclaims the good news in Samaria. Philip went down to Samaria, where he proclaimed Christ to them. The Lord God Almighty showed signs and miracles, and humans witnessed them, making them think again that the Lord God Almighty is watching over all situations and is among them. Many were baptized in water, and humans and the Trinity of God came closer together at this time. **Acts 8:9-11,13.** Simon the sorcerer believes and is baptized in water. The person who accepted themselves to be a servant of the dark had influenced these people, but when Philip proclaimed the Gospel to them with signs and miracles, the people, including Simon, came to light and were baptized in water. **Acts 8:14-25.** Peter and John pray and lay hands for the Samaritans to receive the baptism in the Holy Spirit. These Samaritans had good hearts and were baptized in the name of the Father, the Son Jesus, and the Holy Spirit; however, due to their lifestyle and lack of understanding, the Holy Spirit had not come upon them. Peter and John had the ability and skill to advise the people regarding their lifestyle, and they came to them, prayed, and laid their hands on them, hoping that the Holy Spirit would fall upon all of them because since they had accepted the Gospel, He had not yet fallen upon anyone. **Acts 8:26-40.** Philip ministers to the Ethiopian Eunuch. An Ethiopian eunuch, an outsider, came to Jerusalem to worship the Lord God Almighty. The Lord sent Philip to meet this man on the road going down from Jerusalem to Gaza. The outsider was reading Isaiah the prophet aloud. The Holy Spirit guided Philip to share with him, starting from that passage of Scripture about the Lord Jesus and the good news. The eunuch believed and asked to be baptized in water.

¹ Now Saul was consenting to his death. Then arose on that day a great persecution against the church in Jerusalem; then all were scattered throughout the regions of Judaea and Samaria, except the apostles.

Comments Acts 8:1. "Now Saul was consenting to his death." When the death of the faithful one happened, the heart of the one who had been chosen for work was stirred up.

"Then arose on that day a great persecution . . ." The people saw a great opportunity to stop the work of the believers; now, the dark thought was that they could eliminate the work of the Lord God Almighty by separating all the believers from each other to create fear.

"Then all were scattered throughout . . ." The new believers, with the fear of their own lives, ran away and hid for their own safety, except the apostles; the apostles, the Lord God Almighty worked in their hearts to stand firm for the work; they did not run away in hiding but went among people in secret and kept spreading the word of the Lord God Almighty to people; the work for stirring human hearts began at this point of time.

² And devout men buried Stephen, and made great lamentation over him.

Comments Acts 8:2. After the true servant of the Lord God Almighty perished, the people who had faith buried him and had made a great lamentation in remembrance of him, but all have forgotten the purpose the people had killed him, which is the Jews could not accept the truth of the Holy Word.

³ However, Saul mistreated the church, entering through houses and dragging men and women he was delivering them to prison.

Comments Acts 8:3. "However, Saul mistreated the church." With the dark influence, the mind had made him do bad things toward the Lord God Almighty. The dark influence used violence in order to create fear among people.

“Entering through houses and dragging ...” Many people have suffered from the dark influence among people. The dark influence made the man do things that, later on, deep in his own heart, those actions would influence him in a positive way toward the Lord God Almighty as well.

⁴ Those indeed, therefore having been scattered, went about preaching the word.

Comments Acts 8:4. The ones that had the heart to serve the Lord God Almighty, when they faced persecution, scattered around but did not give up in glorifying the Lord God Almighty; instead, through this suffering, their heart grew stronger in their faith toward the Lord God Almighty. They ran away but were also spreading the good news; the good news was that their running away because of being persecuted by the dark had made the glory of the Lord God Almighty spread out further.

⁵ Now Philip went down to the city of Samaria; he proclaimed to them the Christ.

Comments Acts 8:5. The one who would help spread the good news to people ran away, but the purpose of running away for him was to spread the good news about the beloved Son of God, the Lord Jesus, the Savior of all.

⁶ Now the multitudes gave heed with one accord to the things being spoken by Philip, in them hearing and seeing the signs which he did.

Comments Acts 8:6. “Now the multitudes gave heed ...” The Lord God Almighty showed signs and miracles, and humans witnessed them, making them think again that the Lord God Almighty is watching over all situations, and He is among them as well.

“In them hearing and seeing the signs which he did.” The eyes of humans saw the miracles from the Lord God Almighty; right now, the dark influence had covered their minds, but the light of the Lord God Almighty shone through the dark and opened their hearts to see; now humans have faith: miracles by eyes, ear, and faith.

⁷ For many of those having unclean spirits, they were coming out of them, crying with a loud voice; and many having been paralyzed and lame, were healed.

Comments Acts 8:7. The verse clearly tells all humans that the dark only harms the human body because humans are reminding them of the love of God the Father for humans; the look of humans reminds them more of the love they don't have for them.

⁸ Then there was great joy in that city.

⁹ But a certain man, named Simon, had been already in the city practicing sorcery, and amazing the people of Samaria, declaring himself to be someone great,

Comments Acts 8:8. “But a certain man, named Simon ...” The person who accepted themselves to be a servant of the dark has performed the tricks by evil knowledge that amazed the eyes of the commoners; watch out what you see.

“And amazing the people of Samaria ...” When the dark occupies in human body, the dark will lead that person to make as great one, to declare that that person represents god, which has power on earth.

¹⁰ to whom all were giving heed, from the least to the greatest, saying, This one is the power of god that is called great.

Comments Acts 8:10. Humans control humans by proclaiming themselves to be a god; the term to call a god has power to the mind of humans; respect is requested when called that way; when someone wants to be important and to have power, they will claim themselves to be as the god of something.

¹¹ Now, they gave heed to him because he had amazed them a long time with the sorceries.

Comments Acts 8:11. When humans have given themselves to be controlled by the dark side, the dark also gives that person the ability to perform tricks, which will also trick people's minds who watch them. In this place, it was the same thing; when people paid attention to what they saw and heard, their hearts also swayed into believing in the power of that act.

¹² But when they believed Philip, proclaiming the gospel concerning the kingdom of God, and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women.

Comments Acts 8:12. “But when they believed Philip ...” At this time, when the gospel had been proclaimed to the people, the Lord God Almighty also had been proclaimed to the ears of humans as well.

“And the name of Jesus Christ.” The beloved Son of God, Jesus Christ, has been proclaimed to humans at this time; the souls will be saved through the beloved Son of God.

“They were baptized, both men and women.” Baptism has been performed for humans, and the Lord God Almighty will also be close to humans; humans and the Trinity of God have come to meet at this time.

¹³ And Simon also himself believed, and **having been baptized**, **was steadfastly continuing** with Philip; and beholding signs and great miracles **being performed**, he was amazed.

Comments Acts 8:13. “And Simon also himself believed ...” The human that had been used by the dark side when they come to the light, the heart will be transformed, and they want to glorify the Lord God Almighty, and in the mind will want to know more, to receive more information; this person also has knowledge about the Lord God Almighty already as well.

“And beholding signs and great miracles ...” The eyes saw the miracles, the heart was convinced, and the faith came; now this person wanted to do work; in heart, he wanted to serve the Lord and not to be used by the dark anymore. However, when the heart is transformed, it still needs time to understand the faith.

¹⁴ Now the apostles in Jerusalem, **having heard** that Samaria had received the word of **God**, they sent to them Peter and John,

Comments Acts 8:14. “Now the apostles in Jerusalem having heard ...” The hearts of the people have opened to receive the gospel, and the Lord God Almighty has seen the sincerity of their hearts and has sent trustworthy people to lead them in the right way; the people’s hearts were good, but their lifestyle still needed guidance.

“They sent to them Peter and John.” These two disciples have the ability and skill to advise regarding the lifestyle of these people and will not have difficulty in guiding them to the right path. A group of people will need the right direction from the disciples; if the wrong disciples go there, they will not find the proper way to guide them back to the right path.

¹⁵ who, **having come down**, prayed for them, that they might receive the **Holy Spirit**;

Comments Acts 8:15. When the disciples of the Lord come down to the people, they had prayed with the hope that the Holy Spirit will fall upon all of them; because since they accepted the Gospel, He did not fall upon anyone yet.

¹⁶ for as yet **He** was fallen upon none of them; **however**, they had been only baptized into the name of the **Lord Jesus**.

Comments 8:16. The people have received the gospel with sincere hearts and acknowledged the beloved Son of God, Jesus Christ, as their Savior, but the Holy Spirit was not yet upon any of them.

Q: Were these people baptized into the name of the Lord Jesus alone or into the name of the Father, the Son Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit as the Word commanded the disciples to do? **A:** The disciples taught them about the Trinity, but the people’s hearts were not ready to receive the Holy Spirit; at this time, they received baptism in the name of the Father and the Son. However, when the disciples baptized them, they did pronounce the Trinity of God, but the people’s hearts were not ready to receive the baptism in the Holy Spirit.

Nowadays, people’s hearts are hardened more than in the past; that is the cause for them not to yet speak in tongues; their baptism is finished but not completed yet; they are in the same situation as these people here; they still need to receive the baptism in the Holy Spirit.

¹⁷ Then they laid **the hands upon** them, and they received the **Holy Spirit**.

Comments Acts 8:17. “Then they laid the hands upon them.” When the apostles laid their hands upon the people, the Holy Spirit also went upon that hand as well; in the spiritual world, laying a hand on a person is like having a bridge stretching out to the soul, between the Holy Spirit and the soul of the person.

“And they received the Holy Spirit.” When the apostles laid hands upon the person, that soul of the person was also humbled and waiting to receive the gift as well. The soul that humbles makes the Holy Spirit rise

upon that soul as well, but this is the first part of receiving in the Holy Spirit. The second part will be when the soul is baptized in the Holy Spirit and speaking in tongues.

When the apostles lay hands upon them, that becomes as a bridge: the Holy Spirit goes through, and the soul of the person feels joined with the Holy Spirit; in another way, we can say they feel the touch of the Holy Spirit. At this moment, they are not yet baptized in the Holy Spirit but receive the touch from the Holy Spirit upon their soul. Later on, when the person fully understands what baptism in the Holy Spirit means, the Holy Spirit will work and make the person feel they have a word to say out loud. When baptized in the water, the person goes underneath the water, which is a sign to show that the physical body died under the baptism water, and the body that comes up after is a new body that has been cleansed from the sins; when the Holy Spirit baptism the soul of the person and the Holy Spirit are joining, and the soul becomes the servant under the direction of the Holy Spirit.

⁸ And Simon, having seen that through the laying upon of the hands of the apostles the Spirit was given, he offered them money,

Comments 8:18. “And Simon, having seen ...” When the dark saw that by the laying of the hands of the apostles, the Spirit had been given to the people, the dark in the human mind started working; the plan of the dark in disturbing the work of the Lord started as well. The person himself has good intentions, but when the dark wants to work, they will use the human mind; human weakness is always easily used by the dark, and here, the dark also knows the person’s weakness, and they use it.

“He offered them money.” The dark did not understand the work of the Lord God Almighty for humans. The Spirit cannot be purchased with earthly money, and the servant of the dark had offered money to the apostles because, in the dark mind, money is a god among humans, and the apostles are common men as well; money will have power.

¹⁹ saying, Give me also this power, that on whomever when I lay the hands, he may receive the Holy Spirit.

Comments Acts 8:19. “Saying, Give me also this power.” Dark thoughts in the human mind ask the apostles to receive the power as well, but this power is not for the dark mind to have; humans that have dark minds occupied want to take the power as well because they also feel the authority above them, and if they have this power they believe they can fight against all odds; with this mind, they have come to ask the power.

“That on whomever when I lay my hands ...” The dark believes that this power also controls the Holy Spirit of the Lord God Almighty, and if the dark has this power, they will win in fighting against the Lord God Almighty.

²⁰ However, Peter said to him, Your silver, with you may it be to destruction, because you thought to obtain the gift of God by money.

Comments Acts 8:20. All readers should give attention to this verse: the money of this earth has no meaning; the Lord God Almighty is King of all, and the money has no meaning. If you want the gift of God, you must pay it with your heart; when your heart glorifies the Lord, that heart the Lord God Almighty will value it as the most high gift; use that heart to obtain the gift of God.

²¹ There is no part nor lot to you in this matter, for your heart is not right before God.

Comments Acts 8:21. “There is no part nor lot to you in this matter.” The Lord God Almighty says to the apostles to let the man know that he has no portion in the matter of having the ability to invite the Holy Spirit for anyone; this answer also will make the man think as well: when he has considered himself as a mighty one of god, why he does not have this power.

“For your heart is not right before God.” All believers give attention: the Lord God Almighty looks at the heart, not only the action alone; if in your heart it has any other god besides the Lord, you have no part in the Lord God Almighty’s work. In order to lay hands on someone to receive the Holy Spirit, your heart must be right with God.

²² Repent therefore of this your wickedness, and beg the Lord, if indeed the thought of your heart will be forgiven you.

Comments Acts 8:22. “Repent therefore of this your ...” The verse clearly tells all humans to repent and beg the Lord God Almighty.

“If indeed the thought ...” When the thoughts of a human are unclean because of the dark cover, and the person comes to repent because of their own thoughts, those thoughts will be forgiven by the Lord God Almighty.

²³ For I see **you being** in the gall of bitterness and in the bond of iniquity.

Comments Acts 8:23. The Lord God Almighty has seen the condition of the person, and His mercy has come down for that bitterness and iniquity of that person as well.

²⁴ And Simon, **answering**, said, **Beg you on my behalf** to the **Lord**, so that **nothing of** which **you** have spoken **may** come upon me.

Comments Acts 8:24. “And Simon, answering, said ...” At this moment, the man who has been once under the influence of the dark has realized that the Lord God Almighty is the One who has the true power and authority above all.

“So that nothing of which ...” The person fears that the things humans cannot contain may come upon him; the chance of this person to be saved has come upon him because of fear.

²⁵ They indeed therefore, **having earnestly** testified and **having** spoken the word of the **Lord**, returned to Jerusalem, **and they proclaimed the good news** to many villages of the Samaritans.

Comments Acts 8:25. “They indeed therefore, having earnestly testified ...” The workers of the Lord God Almighty spoke out the Holy Word to the people, and when the duty was fulfilled, they returned back to Jerusalem.

“And they proclaimed the good news ...” The Lord God Almighty has a plan to save the outsiders as well and sent the apostles to proclaim the good news to the Samaritan people; at this point, the children of the Lord God Almighty would realize that the outsiders also have been called to be saved as well.

²⁶ **Now** an angel of the **Lord** spoke to Philip, saying, Arise, and go toward the south to the **road going** down from Jerusalem to Gaza; **this is wilderness**.

Comments Acts 8:26. This angel is a guiding angel that has this specific duty. The Lord God Almighty guided the worker, giving directions on which way he should take; also, going this way, the protection will be upon them as well; the work for the Lord God Almighty is not easy, but safety will be provided at the same time.

²⁷ And **having risen up**, he went; and behold, a man of Ethiopia, a eunuch, **a ruler** of Candace, **a queen** of the Ethiopians, who was over all her treasure, who had come to Jerusalem to worship;

²⁸ and he was returning and sitting in his chariot, and **he** was reading the prophet Isaiah.

Comments Acts 8:27-28. A man of high position, of another nation, also had knowledge about the Lord God Almighty, and as he came to worship the Lord God Almighty and was reading the prophet of the Lord God Almighty, what he was reading also stirred his heart to think deeper; the mind of this man started to think about the passage he was reading. The mighty deeds of the Lord God Almighty had stirred his heart to know more, and in his mind, he truly wanted to know about the Lord God Almighty.

²⁹ **Then** the **Spirit** said to Philip, Go near, and join **yourself** to this chariot.

Comments Acts 8:29. At this moment, the Lord God Almighty’s plan started for the outsiders; by sending the worker to this chariot, the conversation would lead to saving people.

³⁰ And **having run up**, Philip heard him reading Isaiah the prophet and said, **Do you then indeed understand** what **you are reading**?

Comments Acts 8:30. “And having run up ...” When a human’s ear hears the mighty deeds of the Lord God Almighty, this is the starting point for the heart to know more.

“Do you then indeed understand ...” When the ear has heard the mighty deeds, it makes the heart wonder, and the question has come: if someone reads this verse, do they understand everything or not?

³¹ And he said, How **could I be able if not** someone **will** guide me? **Then** he besought Philip to come up to sit with him.

Comments Acts 8:31. The man with pure intention had accepted his own ability: when you cannot understand the Word of the Lord God Almighty, seek someone to help you; by hearing the question (see verse 30), the man had hope that this person, Philip, would help him to understand what he was reading.

³² Now the passage of the Scripture which he was reading was this: **He** was led as a sheep to slaughter; And as a lamb before his shearer is **mute**, So he **opens** not his mouth;

Comments Acts 8:32. “Now the passage of the Scripture ...” When the message related to the Lord God Almighty has been read, the sound of the Word stirs the hearer; whoever hears the Word will pay attention to the Word and the reader.

“He was led as a sheep to slaughter.” The beloved Son of God, innocent and pure as a baby lamb, the pure of heart and soul, has been led to slaughter; the killing of the innocent Lamb of God has condemned the whole world as well.

“And as a lamb before his shearer is mute.” The beloved Son of God receives the punishment without complaint; within His heart, He has no hate or anger toward any of them; He accepts the duty that He has received from the Lord God Almighty for saving the whole world.

“So he opens not his mouth.” When the death has come upon Him, He did not open His mouth to stop it; He accepted and let the death take His life as it should be.

³³ In the humiliation, **His justice** was taken away; His generation who **will recount**? For **His life** is removed from the earth.

Comments Acts 8:33. “In the humiliation, His justice was taken away.” Let all humans pay attention to this verse: the beloved Son of God, Jesus Christ, in His human form, had received all suffering, humiliation, and torture because of His love towards humans and His wish to save their souls; the Lord God Almighty sent His Son, Jesus Christ, for saving the world.

“His generation who will recount?” The humans that have seen the Lord Jesus Christ were not many, but many will hear about Him and His suffering, which He received upon Himself for them all; the Christ of God carried the world’s sins on His shoulder to the grave.

“For His life is removed from the earth.” The beloved Son of God, Jesus Christ, His human life, in human form, has been taken away, but His grace, which has poured down to save humans, has been done in this taken away; humans receive and rejoice in His grace, but remember with your hearts not only by head’s people talk how much love of God He has shown for all humans.

³⁴ Now, the eunuch **answering to Philip**, said, I pray you, **concerning whom does the prophet say this? Concerning himself, or concerning some other?**

Comments Acts 8:34. This question is general for all humans; when the Scripture has said something but does not mention the name, humans will try to interpret whom it should refer to; this will be the first question for all humans.

³⁵ Then Philip **having opened his mouth, and having begun from this Scripture, he proclaimed the good news to him — Jesus.**

Comments Acts 8:35. “Then Philip having opened his mouth ...” The Lord God Almighty has given the word to this worker to glorify the Trinity of God; the word that comes out from his mouth at this time will point the way for outsiders to see and be saved as well.

“He proclaimed the good news to him — Jesus.” The truth about the beloved Son of God, Jesus Christ, has been proclaimed, and this, too, will stay and spread out to the whole world: the way to be saved. The only beloved Son of God who comes down on earth will be proclaimed, and all humans who have faith and trust in Him will be saved.

³⁶ And as **they were going along the road**, they came upon some water; and the eunuch **says**, Behold water; what **does prevent** me to be baptized?

Comments Acts 8:36. “And as they were going along the road ...” Let all humans take this as an example: the outsider saw water and, with the heart straight forward, wanted to be baptized in the water; when he saw the water, the joy had come to heart, the question had come, here the water, can he be saved now?

“Behold water ...” The outsider saw the water, and in his heart, he couldn’t think another way; the water was here, and all he wanted was to be baptized and saved; the faithful heart had succeeded in his wish by asking to be baptized.

Q: Does a person need to receive much teaching about being Christian before they decide to be baptized in water? Do they need to go to the water baptism classes? **A:** The teaching about how to receive the baptism in water is good, but it also depends on what they are teaching about; specifically, if the person receives the proper teaching regarding the Lord God Almighty’s requirements of making the commitment to be a true follower of the Holy Bible and also is given as an example how the Lord Jesus Christ received His water baptism that should be complete.

³⁷ Then Philip said, If you believe from all the heart, you may. He answered and said, I believe the **Son of God to be Jesus Christ.**

Comments Acts 8:37. “Then Philip said, If you believe ...” Give attention to this verse: this question is the key to ask for all humans: if you believe in the Holy Son, it must be from heart, not head; because when you have believed, you have opened your heart to receive faith in the Lord God Almighty at the same time.

“He answered and said, I believe the Son of God to be Jesus Christ.” Believe with the heart and confess with the mouth that the Lord Jesus Christ is the beloved Son of God.

³⁸ And he commanded the chariot to stand still; and they both went down into the water, both Philip and the eunuch, and he baptized him.

Comments Acts 8:38. The outsider truly wanted to be baptized in the water, and the Lord God Almighty also saw his heart; now this outsider had received the Lord God Almighty, and not only would this man’s life be changed, but people around him would also receive the knowledge.

³⁹ And when they came up out of the water, the **Spirit of the Lord** carried away Philip; and the eunuch saw him no longer, for he went on his way rejoicing.

Comments Acts 8:39. “And when they came up out of the water ...” When the work that the worker was supposed to do was finished, the Holy Spirit carried him to another place.

“And the eunuch saw him no longer ...” The outsider experienced a miracle from the Lord God Almighty; in his heart full of joy and hope, the work of the Lord began in his life.

Q: How did the Holy Spirit carry Philip away, transporting him to a different place or guiding him to go by himself? **A:** This was a miracle, and the Holy Spirit transported Philip immediately to another place (See John 6:21).

⁴⁰ However, Philip was found at Azotus, and passing through, he was proclaiming the good news to all the cities, until he came to Caesarea.

Comments Acts 8:40. “However, Philip was found at Azotus.” At this point, the worker came to the place the Lord God Almighty had set for starting the work.

“And passing through, he was proclaiming ...” As the worker went through the place, he proclaimed the coming of the Savior to all people; the good news he proclaimed captured people’s hearts, and the people started to have questions for themselves; all the hearts that captured the word would search for the Lord God Almighty; people’s hearts would start to be ready to hear more news about the Lord God Almighty.

Life and faith applications. 1) Wherever the Lord guides you to reside, proclaim the good news to those around you. 2) Do not engage in any way in the works of the dark; watch out for what you see and do! 3) As a follower of the Lord Jesus, you must baptize in the water in the name of the Father, Son Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit, and seek the baptism in the Holy Spirit. 4) If you are baptized in the Holy Spirit, you can encourage others to seek the baptism and lay hands on them. 5) Watch out who lays hands upon you; whoever lays hands upon you must be true believers in the Lord Jesus Christ and hold to the Trinity of God.