

Questions for Reflection and Discussion
Acts 8:1-25
The Spreading Flame

Background

Read Acts 7:54-60. Summarize the events in these verses.

Digging In

1. **Read Ac 8:1-3.** What happened to the believers in Jerusalem as a result of the persecution that broke out after Stephen's death?
2. What role did Saul (Paul) have in Stephen's death, and in the persecution of the early church? (see also 22:20)
3. **Read vss. 4-8.** What did the believers do as a result of this dispersion?
4. Where did Philip go? Describe his ministry there.
5. Summarize what we learn about Simon in **vss. 9-11.**
6. **Read vss. 12-13.** What happened as a result of Philip's ministry in Samaria?
7. **Read vss. 14-17.** Why did Peter and John make this special trip to Samaria? Why was this important for the unity of the church?
8. **Read vss. 18-19.** What was Simon's reaction when he saw *that the Spirit was given at the laying on of the apostles' hands*?
9. How did Peter respond? (**vss. 20-25**) Why do you think he was so severe?
10. Do you think Simon was a genuine believer? Why or why not?



Getting Personal

- How does this passage show God's sovereignty at work in the protection and growth of the church?
- How can this be an encouragement to us when we experience difficulties or opposition?
- What does this passage teach us about the dangers of spiritual power?
- How can v. 4 encourage us as we seek to be ambassadors for Christ?

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