

St Andrew's Church  
13<sup>th</sup> January 2019

## **Acts 8:1-25**

### **The Holy Spirit's power is greater than persecution vv1-8**

Recalling also Jesus' promise in Acts 1:8, what do we need to remember when opposition / persecution comes our way?

*But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.* Acts 1:8

### **The Holy Spirit's power is greater than spirituality vv9-13**

What other kinds of spiritual power/influence are there in the world?

See also Ephesians 6:12

### **The Holy Spirit's presence is the greatest gift vv14-17**

Why is the presence of the Holy Spirit CRUCIAL for salvation and what would be the signs of his presence in a person?

### **The Holy Spirit cannot be manipulated vv18-25**

How might we (unwittingly?) try to manipulate the Holy Spirit, God's word or his Church for wrong motives?

How do we keep in step with the Holy Spirit (Galatians 5:25) and not grieve him (Ephesians 4:30)?

## **Acts 8:1-25**

On that day a great persecution broke out against the church in Jerusalem, and all except the apostles were scattered throughout Judea and Samaria.  
<sup>2</sup> Godly men buried Stephen and mourned deeply for him. <sup>3</sup> But Saul began to destroy the church. Going from house to house, he dragged off both men and women and put them in prison.

<sup>4</sup> Those who had been scattered preached the word wherever they went. <sup>5</sup> Philip went down to a city in Samaria and proclaimed the Messiah there. <sup>6</sup> When the crowds heard Philip and saw the signs he performed, they all paid close attention to what he said. <sup>7</sup> For with shrieks, impure spirits came out of many, and many who were paralysed or lame were healed. <sup>8</sup> So there was great joy in that city.

<sup>9</sup> Now for some time a man named Simon had practised sorcery in the city and amazed all the people of Samaria. He boasted that he was someone great, <sup>10</sup> and all the people, both high and low, gave him their attention and exclaimed, 'This man is rightly called the Great Power of God.' <sup>11</sup> They followed him because he had amazed them for a long time with his sorcery. <sup>12</sup> But when they believed Philip as he proclaimed the good news of the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptised, both men and women. <sup>13</sup> Simon himself believed and was baptised. And he followed Philip everywhere, astonished by the great signs and miracles he saw.

<sup>14</sup> When the apostles in Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to Samaria. <sup>15</sup> When they arrived, they prayed for the new believers there that they might receive the Holy Spirit, <sup>16</sup> because the Holy Spirit had not yet come on any of them; they had simply been baptised in the name of the Lord Jesus. <sup>17</sup> Then Peter and John placed their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

<sup>18</sup> When Simon saw that the Spirit was given at the laying on of the apostles' hands, he offered them money <sup>19</sup> and said, 'Give me also this ability so that everyone on whom I lay my hands may receive the Holy Spirit.'

<sup>20</sup> Peter answered: 'May your money perish with you, because you thought you could buy the gift of God with money! <sup>21</sup> You have no part or share in this ministry, because your heart is not right before God. <sup>22</sup> Repent of this wickedness and pray to the Lord in the hope that he may forgive you for having such a thought in your heart. <sup>23</sup> For I see that you are full of bitterness and captive to sin.'

<sup>24</sup> Then Simon answered, 'Pray to the Lord for me so that nothing you have said may happen to me.'

<sup>25</sup> After they had further proclaimed the word of the Lord and testified about Jesus, Peter and John returned to Jerusalem, preaching the gospel in many Samaritan villages.