

Deane Parish Church
27th July 2014

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.

² Godly men buried Stephen and mourned deeply for him. ³ But Saul began to destroy the church. Going from house to house, he dragged off both men and women and put them in prison.

⁴ Those who had been scattered preached the word wherever they went.

⁵ Philip went down to a city in Samaria and proclaimed the Messiah there.

⁶ When the crowds heard Philip and saw the signs he performed, they all paid close attention to what he said. ⁷ For with shrieks, impure spirits came out of many, and many who were paralysed or lame were healed. ⁸ So there was great joy in that city.

⁹ 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, ¹⁰ and all the people, both high and low, gave him their attention and exclaimed, 'This man is rightly called the Great Power of God.' ¹¹ They followed him because he had amazed them for a long time with his sorcery.

¹² 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. ¹³ Simon himself believed and was baptised. And he followed Philip everywhere, astonished by the great signs and miracles he saw.

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

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

²⁰ Peter answered: 'May your money perish with you, because you thought you could buy the gift of God with money! ²¹ You have no part or share in this ministry, because your heart is not right before God. ²² 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. ²³ For I see that you are full of bitterness and captive to sin.'

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

²⁵ 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.