

Conversions in Acts  
"People in Samaria"  
(Acts 8:5-25)

Introduction:

1. After His resurrection, Jesus gave the Great Commission to the apostles (Matthew 28:19-20; Mark 16:15-16; Luke 24:45-47).
2. (Acts 1:8) Jesus gave the apostles a specific plan for carrying out the Great Commission.
3. Throughout the remainder of Acts, Luke showed how this mission was fulfilled.
4. In conjunction with this, Luke wrote about a number of conversions that occurred.
5. Studying these conversions will help us understand how we become Christians today.
6. (Acts 2:41) The church experienced phenomenal growth on Pentecost when about 3,000 people were baptized.
7. The church continued to grow.
  - a. (Acts 2:47b) It grew daily.
  - b. (Acts 4:4) In a short time the men numbered about 5,000.
  - c. (Acts 5:12-14) Multitudes of men and women were added.
  - d. (Acts 6:7) The number of disciples multiplied greatly.
8. This growth occurred because Christians taught and preached Christ (Acts 5:42; 8:4).
9. (Acts 8:5-25) Luke showed how many people in Samaria became Christians.

Discussion:

- I. PHILIP ENJOYED GREAT SUCCESS IN SAMARIA
  - A. (vs.5) Philip went to Samaria.
    1. He had been a servant of the church in Jerusalem (Acts 6:5-6).
    2. He left Jerusalem with many others because of persecution (Acts 8:1).
    3. From Jerusalem he traveled to Samaria.
  - B. In Samaria, Philip preached Christ (vs.5b, 12).
  - C. The people in Samaria listened to Philip because of the miracles he performed (vs.6-8).
  - D. Consequently, men and women were baptized in Samaria (vs.12).
  - E. Simon, a sorcerer, became a Christian (vs.9-11, 13).
- II. PETER AND JOHN VISITED SAMARIA
  - A. (vs.14-17) Peter and John prayed for and laid their hands on the Christians in Samaria, and they received the Holy Spirit.
  - B. Philip had baptized them in the Lord's name.
  - C. However, only the apostles could lay hands on Christians so they could receive the Holy Spirit [Paul did the same thing in Ephesus -- Acts 19:6].
- III. SIMON SINNED
  - A. (vs.18-19) Simon wanted to buy the power to lay hands on people so they could receive the Holy Spirit.
  - B. (vs.20-23) Peter rebuked Simon.
  - C. (vs.24) Simon requested prayer on his behalf (1 John 1:9).
- IV. (vs.25) PETER AND JOHN RETURNED TO JERUSALEM
  - A. As they did so, they preached to other Samaritans.
  - B. The Lord's plan given in Acts 1:8 was being implemented.