

August 16th & 17th, 2025

Be Amazed, Be Filled, Be Baptized *with the Holy Spirit, with a right heart before God.*

Acts 8:9-25 outlines Simon the sorcerer's encounter with the gospel in Samaria, his initial belief and baptism, and his subsequent attempt to buy the Holy Spirit's power. The Holy Spirit's presence is, in every case, an undeserved gift and depends on God, not the will of man, to give as He desires to whom He desires. This section of scripture highlights the difference between true and false professions of faith, emphasizing that genuine conversion involves a transformed heart and not just outward actions.

I. Be Amazed: Simon's Sorcery and Initial Belief (Acts 8:9-13)

- ♦ Simon's Influence: *Acts 8:9-12*
- ♦ Philip's Preaching: Philip preaches the gospel in Samaria, and many believe and are baptized, including Simon. The crowds now paid attention to the message of Philip with one accord. *Acts 8:5-6*
- ♦ Simon's Amazement: Simon himself believes and is baptized, continuing to follow Philip and being amazed by the signs and wonders. *Acts 8:6-7*

II. Be Filled: The Holy Spirit's Arrival in Samaria (Acts 8:14-17)

- ♦ The apostles in Jerusalem hear that Samaria received the word of God and come to pray for them. Peter and John are sent to Samaria. *Acts 8:14*
- ♦ Peter and John pray for the new believers to receive the Holy Spirit, and they receive the Spirit when the apostles lay hands on them. *Acts 8:15,16*
- ♦ Simon's attempt to buy the Holy Spirit ends with rebuke, not filling. (Acts 8:18-25):
 - ✠ Simon sees the Holy Spirit being given through the laying on of hands. *Acts 8:18*
 - ✠ Simon offers Peter and John money, seeking to buy the same power so he can give the Spirit at will to anyone *he* lays his hands on. *Acts 8:19*
 - ✠ Peter's Rebuke: You have neither part nor lot in this matter, for your heart is not right before God. *Acts 8:21*
 - Two simple directions are given to have a right heart: Repent, Pray. *Acts 8:22*
- ♦ Simon asks Peter and John to pray for him, that none of the things Peter spoke of would come upon him. *Acts 8:24*.
- ♦ Simon is told he has neither “part nor lot in this matter.” Instead of the power concentrated in one person, like Simon was asking for, bitterness came in, and he remained in bondage to iniquity. *Luke 24:49* “*And behold, I am sending the promise of my Father upon you. But stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high.*”

- ♦ The apostles were compelled in love to proclaim Christ, not motivated by power. Peter was able to spot and explain simply Simon's need. *Acts 8:23*.
- ↪ In *Acts 8:21*, "neither part nor lot" means that Simon the sorcerer has no share or participation in the spiritual gifts or the ministry of the apostles, because his heart is not right with God. Such spiritual gifts cannot be purchased.
- ↪ Having part and lot in the presence of God requires cleansing by the blood of Christ, which involves confession of sin, and repentance, and is done through prayer, not merely baptism:
 - "Part or lot in this matter" signifies a share in the spiritual blessings and authority given by God that is granted to those who place their faith in Christ for the forgiveness of sins.
 - "Your heart is not right in the sight of God" *Acts 8:21*
- ↪ Baptism won't save you if it doesn't come from the right heart.
- ↪ God is merciful, but we need to *repent and pray* for forgiveness; we can't just repent, we must be cleansed and forgiven to be baptized.

III. Be Baptized: Baptism requires faith in Christ's work, and the picture of being buried to yourself.

- ♦ Peter: Baptism now saves you and corresponds to this: *1 Peter 3:18-22*
- ♦ Baptism is only in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

To be baptized effectively is to pray and repent beforehand, seeking a right heart before God. The call is that the former intent of your heart may be forgiven you, and going under the water is a picture you are willing to paint that says: I give up my former manner of living and am dying to self that I might live through Christ.

Confession: releases the bond of iniquity through faith to cleanse from all unrighteousness. *1 John 1:9*, "*If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.*"

Endnotes:

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