

Sermon Series: Acts: The Church on Fire

Acts 8:1-25 *The Heart*

⇒ **Reminder of events in Acts**

I. Persecution

- A. Stephen's stoning preceded the persecution
- B. "They" were scattered
- C. Saul was "ravaging" the church
- D. Persecution reveals faithfulness (Persecution strengthened the faith of believers)

II. Faithfulness

- A. The "scattered" shared the word of God
- B. Philip went to the city of Samaria
- C. Many paid attention because of the signs and wonders
- D. Faithfulness of believers brings spiritual growth

III. Spiritual Growth

- A. People listened, believed, and were baptized
- B. Simon
 - 1. Practiced magic
 - 2. All paid attention to him
 - 3. "power of God that is called Great"
 - 4. Believed, baptized, and continued with Philip
- C. Spiritual growth reveals truth in our lives.

IV. Truth is revealed

- A. Peter and John visit the city
 - 1. Apostles at Jerusalem heard about the "revival"
 - 2. Sent Peter and John
- B. Holy Spirit is received
 - 1. Laid hands on and people received Him
 - 2. Why not at salvation?
 - 3. Gives unity to faith in Christ for all Believers
- C. Simon wants the "gift"

1. Previously the one everyone paid attention to
2. Wanted the gift, even if it costs money
3. Peter identifies Simon's heart problem
4. Told to repent

D. Repentance brings change to the heart

1. Repent, remorse
2. Turning about
3. Beginning a new relationship with God (positive side)
4. Hebrews 6:1
5. *Repentance is a changed heart

E. Life will reveal a heart

V. Live It Out

- A. How do you know your heart is right?
- B. Faithful: are you faithful even during persecution?
- C. Opportunities: Do you take opportunities of service when they are available?
- D. Fruit: What fruit of Christ does your life reveal?