

# IGNITE

## A STUDY OF THE BOOK OF ACTS

### When God Touches A City

Sunday, June 4, 2023

Acts 8:4-25

There are 24 time zones in the world, one for every hour of the day. In those 24 time zones, there are cities, villages, and towns made up of myriads of people from all races, tribes, and tongues. Every person in every city in every time zone matters to God. In Acts 8, we arrive at a major turning point in the church. Previously, the church was seen in the city of Jerusalem, now the church is scattered to the uttermost parts of the earth, specifically, to the city of Samaria. Philip preaches the gospel in Samaria and God touches the city. When God touches a city, the gospel transforms those who genuinely believe and results in celebration.

In today's text, God has...

#### A word about gospel ministry (verses 4-5)

1. **When God touches a city, he uses a faithful Christian.**
2. **When God touches a city, he uses a consistent message.**
  - Stephen's message (Acts 7)
  - Peter's message (Acts 5:30-31)
  - Paul's message (Galatians 3:13)
  - Philip's message (Acts 8:5)

This speaks to God's plan to change a city, one person at a time.

#### A word of great hope (verses 6-8)

1. **Jesus transforms**
2. **Jesus celebrates**

This speaks to God's power to change a city, one person at a time.

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### A word of grave warning (verses 9-24)

Acts 8:9-24 records Satan's attempt to sow the first known "tare" in the church.

#### 1. Genuine conversion

#### 2. False conversion

False converts "desire to have the life Christ offers, without the surrender of all of life He demands."

**Belief is more than intellectual assent; it calls for a whole-hearted commitment of one's life as Jesus' disciple. (James 2:19)**

- Simon had profession without possession.
- Simon had conversion without repentance.
- Simon had religion without relationship.