

Community Group Questions  
Acts 8:9-25

1. Read Acts 8:8-25. What did you find helpful, encouraging, or challenging from this week's passage and message?
2. Everyone in Samaria – from the least to the greatest – thought Simon was the great power until they encountered an even greater power. What are some of the things that tend to capture people's attentions, affections, and hold them almost spellbound? How can Jesus free us from those things? Do you have any experience with being freed from something that once held power over you? Or seeing Jesus free someone from some type of bondage?
3. How is this passage related to Acts 1:8? Why is this significant?
4. How would you answer a person who held to the Roman Catholic position that this passage demonstrates that this is the normative two-stage initiation process for all Christians? (i.e. be baptized, then later be presented to the bishops of the church for the laying on of hands and reception of the Holy Spirit) See Acts 10:44-48 for some help.
5. How would you answer a person who holds to a Pentecostal position that this passage demonstrates that this is the normative two-stage initiation process for all Christians? (i.e. repent and believe, and then later receive the Holy Spirit and the accompanying spiritual gifts through prayer and the laying on of hands) See Romans 8:9; 1 Cor 12:13; and Ephesians 4:4-6 for some help.
6. Why did God delay pouring out His Spirit on the Samaritan believers? In what ways does this passage fulfill the promise of Ezekiel 37:15-28?
7. Do you think Simon had genuine faith in Christ? Why or why not?
8. Compare Simon's response to Peter's call to repentance with King Saul's response in 1 Samuel 15:24-31. What similarities do you see? What is the difference between genuine repentance and praying that we don't receive the consequences for our sin?