

Acts 8: Second Response to the Holy Spirit's Moving Forward

I. Expansion of the Domain of the Work of Service (vv. 1–4)

- A. Great persecution was the pressure in circumstances permitted by the Lord
 - 1. Followed the Lord's command to the ends of the earth
 - 2. Broke through the stagnation and complacency in Jerusalem
 - a) the Holy Spirit moved forward
 - b) heading toward the goal
- B. Being scattered meant expansion
- C. The Holy Spirit was secretly preparing a vessel — all of Saul's life history was under the Lord's control
- D. Being scattered did not mean fleeing; it was to preach the word in all places

II. Philip: A Person Absolutely Following the Holy Spirit (vv. 5–40)

- A. Proclaimed the Christ — people heard and also saw
- B. Brought people the real joy of salvation
- C. Exposed the false Great Power, Simon the magician
- D. The apostles brought the gift of the Holy Spirit — grace upon grace in serving together
 - 1. Brought in the experience of filling of the Holy Spirit — an evident gift
 - 2. The Holy Spirit is God and cannot be exchanged for any conditions or monetary gains — the heart has to be upright
 - 3. The gospel spread to Samaria — the shoes of the gospel
- E. Obedience allowed God's kingdom to expand
 - 1. Philip had a life of absolute obedience — the Holy Spirit was Lord
 - a) Without a word, he obeyed and went to the desert
 - b) He followed the voice of the Holy Spirit all the way
 - 2. An Ethiopian eunuch received Christ — the firstfruit in Africa
 - a) The eunuch had outward worship but did not have the Lord Himself
 - b) He was blessed because of his love for the word of the Lord
 - c) Philip was prompted by the Holy Spirit to preach Jesus — the Lord was the only topic
 - d) The eunuch was baptized
 - 3. Philip was taken away by the Holy Spirit — a glorious experience
 - a) Those who serve the Lord always follow the Holy Spirit, not the work
 - b) The Holy Spirit is the continuation of the work
 - c) Everyone should rely on the Holy Spirit — the eunuch went on his way rejoicing