

## Lecture 6 – The Challenge of Acts 8 & 19

“... and they received the Holy Spirit.” Acts 8:17

### Key Terms

Funnel concept, inclusion of Samaritans, apostolic authentication, delay

### Objectives

- \*Explain the “delay” of the outpouring of the Spirit in Samaria.
- \*Critique the statement, ‘The delay of the outpouring of the Spirit is a common phenomenon.’
- \*Explain why the people in Samaria had not yet received the Holy Spirit, although they were baptized.

### The Challenge of Acts 8 & 19

#### I. Introduction

Acts 8 and 19 help us to understand the funnel concept: Various ethnic and religious groups are led to the same point of receiving God’s grace and the Spirit of God.

#### II. Acts 8:5-25, Philip in Samaria

##### A. History of Samaria

1. 722 BC: Assyrian exile
2. Jewish-Gentile intermarriage
3. Superstitious people
4. Despised by Jews
5. God does not exclude this group; equality of love

##### B. The Gospel being preached by Philip

1. First presentation of the Gospel among the Samaritans
2. Outpouring of the Spirit is delayed until \_\_\_\_\_.

##### C. Various interpretations of Acts 8

1. ‘Because the Samaritans believe in Christ only because they saw miracles (8:7), their faith was not genuine.’
  - a. Not a convincing argument
  - b. Peter and Simon

##### D. From Jewish perspective, Samaritans do not belong to the covenant people of God.

1. Philip did preach the Gospel, which was genuinely received, but there was the necessity of apostolic authentication:
  - a. For the witness to the Jerusalem church
  - b. For the witness to the apostles: God has included the Samaritans.
  - c. For the apostles to authenticate the Gospel preached by Philip
2. Temporary delay: not a norm, but a unique circumstance whereby God secures the inclusion of Samaritans among His covenant people.

#### III. Acts 19:1ff.

- A. Only other text where there may be a distinction between \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_
- B. Ephesus: Fertility cult (Artemis temple)
- C. Disciples: Not necessarily of Christ, maybe of John
- D. Paul brings them from the place of John’s baptism to the message of the Gospel.
- E. “In the name of”: Association with Christ Himself, brought into a relationship with Him.
- F. Before Paul comes, there is a deficiency of instruction in the basics of the Gospel.