

- We cannot avoid *people* because God is concerned about everyone.
- We cannot avoid *problems* because lost people bring problems.

How to Become a Christian

Many people believe they are Christians because they were born in a Christian culture, go to church regularly, try to do their best, or live a good life. However, the Bible teaches that these things cannot make you a Christian. You become a Christian by simply taking these two steps:

- Acknowledge that you (along with all people) have sinned and fallen short of God's standards.
ROMANS 3:23
- Personally believe that Jesus Christ, who was God in human flesh, died for your sins on the cross and rose again. 1 CORINTHIANS 15:3, 4

You may express your belief through prayer, asking Jesus to come into your life, and receiving Him as God's gift to you.
JOHN 1:12, ROMANS 6:23, REVELATION 3:20

EPHESIANS 2:8, 9 *For it is by grace you have been saved through faith...it is the gift of God; not by works, so that no one can boast.*

All scriptures printed in the outline are taken from the English Standard Version unless otherwise noted.

You Can't Contain It

Acts 8:4-25

Review

The Book of Acts transitions from the earthly ministry of Christ to the Spirit-infused ministry of Christ through His church.

Key Verse

ACTS 1:8 *But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.*

Acts Thus Far

ACTS 1:1-8:3 Jesus created a people, indwelt and empowered by His Spirit, to proclaim His gospel in all the world.

- *The Promise*—To receive power from the Holy Spirit and be witnesses throughout all the world (ACTS 1:8)
- *The Power*—The Holy Spirit manifests himself through His people to save in mighty and miraculous ways. (ACTS 2:1-13; 3:1-10; 5:12-16)
- *The Proclamation*—Disciples boldly speak of Jesus to those who do not know Him, leading thousands to faith in Him. (ACTS 2:14-41; 3:11-26; 7:1-53)
- *The People*—The new community continually grows in unity, love, generosity, prayerfulness and joy while seeking to deal honestly and openly with sin. (ACTS 2:42-47; 4:22-37; 5:1-11; 6:1-7)
- *The Persecution*—Opposition quickly comes to the disciples as they proclaim Jesus, resulting in beatings and even death. But an unexpected consequence was that it led to gospel expansion. (ACTS 4:1-22; 5:17-52; 6:8-15; 7:54-8:3)

Key Transitions in Us as We Study

- From attending to *expectant*
- From unknown to *connected*
- From spectator to *disciple-maker*

Out of the Box

The gospel sends us to places we don't expect, saves people we wouldn't consider and subjects us to problems we want to avoid.

You cannot contain the gospel with _____.

ACTS 8:4-8 *Those who had been scattered preached the word wherever they went. ⁵ Philip went down to a city in Samaria and proclaimed the Christ there. ⁶ When the crowds heard Philip and saw the miraculous signs he did, they all paid close attention to what he said. ⁷ With shrieks, evil spirits came out of many, and many paralytics and cripples were healed. ⁸ So there was great joy in that city.*

You cannot contain the gospel with _____.

- Simon stands _____ at great signs.

ACTS 8:9-13 *Now for some time a man named Simon had practiced sorcery in the city and amazed all the people of Samaria. He boasted that he was someone great, ¹⁰ and all the people, both high and low, gave him their attention and exclaimed, "This man is the divine power known as the Great Power." ¹¹ They followed him because he had amazed them for a long time with his magic. ¹² But when they believed Philip as he preached the good news of the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women. ¹³ Simon himself believed and was baptized. And he followed Philip everywhere, astonished by the great signs and miracles he saw.*

- God _____ the expansion of the gospel with the apostles.

ACTS 8:14-17 *When the apostles in Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them. ¹⁵ When they arrived, they prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit, ¹⁶ because the Holy Spirit had not yet come upon any of them; they had simply been baptized into the name of the Lord Jesus. ¹⁷ Then Peter and John placed their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.*

- Peter _____ Simon's sin.

The *request* exposes the heart.

ACTS 8:18-19 *When Simon saw that the Spirit was given at the laying on of the apostles' hands, he offered them money ¹⁹ and said, "Give me also this ability so that everyone on whom I lay my hands may receive the Holy Spirit."*

The *rebuke* speaks to the heart.

ACTS 8:20-24 *Peter answered: "May your money perish with you, because you thought you could buy the gift of God with money! ²¹ You have no part or share in this ministry, because your heart is not right before God. ²² Repent of this wickedness and pray to the Lord. Perhaps he will forgive you for having such a thought in your heart. ²³ For I see that you are full of bitterness and captive to sin."*

²⁴ Then Simon answered, "Pray to the Lord for me so that nothing you have said may happen to me."

The gospel _____ to advance.

ACTS 8:25 *When they had testified and proclaimed the word of the Lord, Peter and John returned to Jerusalem, preaching the gospel in many Samaritan villages.*

- We cannot avoid *places* because there isn't a place God does not want to take the gospel.