

8[1] And Saul was approving of his death. And in that day, there was a great persecution upon the assembly that was in Jerusalem. And all were scattered about the country of Judea and Samaria, except the apostles. [2] And devout men buried Stephen and made great lamentation over him. [3] And Saul ravaged the assembly, going into the houses and dragging men and women, he delivered into prison. [4] Therefore, those scattered went throughout preaching¹ the word.

[5] And Philip went down to a city of the Samaria and preached to them the Christ. [6] And the crowds heeded the things spoken by Philip with one accord, in hearing them and seeing the signs which he did. [7] For many of those having unclean spirits crying out with a loud voice came out, and many paralyzed and lame were healed. [8] And there was great joy in that city.

[9] And a certain man by the name of Simon who was previously in the city practicing magic² and amazing the nation of the Samaria, was claiming to be someone great himself, [10] to whom they³ heeded from small to great, saying, “This one is⁴ the great power of the God.” [11] And they heeded him, because for a long time with the magic⁵ he amazed them. [12] And when they believed Philip preaching the good news concerning the things of the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were being immersed, both men and women. [13] And Simon also himself believed,⁶ and being immersed continued with Philip. And seeing powers and signs being done, he was amazed.⁷

[14] And the apostles in Jerusalem hearing that the Samaria had received the word of God, sent to them the Peter and John. [15] Who, going down, prayed for them, that they might receive the holy spirit. [16] For it had not yet fallen upon any of them, but they had only been immersed into the name of the Lord Jesus. [17] Then they laid the hands upon them and were receiving holy spirit.⁸

[18] And Simon seeing that through the laying on of the apostles hands the holy spirit was given, offered them money,⁹ [19] saying, “Give me also this authority, so that to whom I lay hands upon might receive holy spirit.” [20] And Peter said to him, “Your silver¹⁰ be with you unto perdition,¹¹ because you thought the gift of God was to be obtained through money. [21] You have no part nor portion in this matter, for your heart is not right before the God. [22] Repent therefore from this your evil and beseech the God if perhaps the thought of your heart will be forgiven you. [23] For I see you are in the gall¹² of bitterness and the bond of unrighteousness.” [24] And Simon answering said, “You ask for me to the Lord, that none come upon me which you have spoken.” [25] So then, having testified and spoken the word of the Lord, they returned to Jerusalem, and preached the good news in many towns of the Samaritans.

1 εὐαγγελιζόμενοι (euangelizomenoi) - “preaching good news” - same root word as in Matthew 11:5. See footnote therein.

2 μαγεύων (mageuōn) - “practicing magic” (NAS) - NKJV “practiced sorcery”; KJV “used sorcery” - only found here. The verb for “practicing sorcery,” φαρμακεύω (pharmakeuō), is not found in the NT, but it is found in the Greek OT (LXX) in 2 Chronicles 33:6 (NKJV “used . . . sorcery”) & Psalm 58:5 (LXX 57:6; H58:6, NKJV “charming”).

3 RT & CT add πάντες (pantes) “all”

4 CT adds καλουμένη (kaloumenē) “called” - e.g. NAS “what is called”

5 μαγείαις (mageiais) - “magic” - KJV, NKJV “sorceries”; NAS “magic arts” - only found here. The Greek word for “sorcery” is φαρμακεία (pharmakeia) found only in Galatians 5:20; Revelation 9:21; 18:23. There is also the Greek word φάρμακοι (pharmakoi), “sorcerers,” found in the NT only in Revelation 22:15 & 21:8. See also “magic,” περίεργα (perierga), in Acts 19:19. For more on “magic” (NKJV), see also Ezekiel 13:17-23 (NKJV “magic charms” כִּסְאוֹת [kesâtot]); Daniel 2:2, 10 “magician” (LXX μάγον [magon]). See also footnote for Genesis 41:8.

6 ἐπίστευσεν (episteusen) - “believed” - here is an example of faith not yet unto salvation (see verses 18-23). For this concept (faith without salvation), see also Exodus 4:31/14:30-31/Psalm 106:7-26; 2 Kings 17:32-34, 40-41; Matthew 22:1-13/Revelation 19:8; John 2:23-25; James 2:14, 26; 2 Peter 3:9.

7 The one who amazed others was amazed himself.

8 This is not always how the Holy Spirit was given. For example, see John 20:22; Acts 10:44-45. How is the Holy Spirit received? Galatians 3:2 “by the hearing of faith,” and “faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God” (Romans 10:17). For the Spirit received as here with the laying on of hands, see Acts 9:17; 19:6.

9 χρήματα (chrēmata) - “money” - see verse 20 where Peter calls the χρήματα (chrēmata) “money” ἀργύριον (argurion) “silver.” See also footnote for Mark 10:23.

10 ἀργύριον (argurion) - “silver”

11 ἀπώλειαν (apōleian) - “perdition” - same word for “destruction” (NKJV) in Matthew 7:13. See footnote there.

12 χολήν (cholēn) - “gall” - NKJV “poisoned” - same word as “gall” (NKJV) in Matthew 27:34.