

Acts: The Gospel Gone Viral  
Lesson 16 “The Revival in Samaria”

Introduction - We are in a series on Acts. We are going through the entire book and looking at how the Church was born in revival and this caused the Gospel to go viral.

A. We have already studied three major revivals in detail. These are Pentecost in Acts 2 which led to 3,000 salvations, the healing of the lame man in Acts 3 which led to 5,000, and the multitudes who were added to the church through signs and wonders (healing from Peter’s shadow in Acts 5. True revival causes the gospel to go viral.

B. While the church started in revival and operated pretty much unhindered for the first 5 years, we saw the first major persecution at the end of Acts 7 when Steven was martyred.

1. This persecution created hardship which caused some to waiver in their faith and/or stop trying to make a difference (went through the motions).
2. Others took the gospel out which is how revival spread from Jerusalem to other regions. This is what we’re going to look at today as we study the revival in Samaria.

## II. The Revival in Samaria

A. **Acts 8:4-8** - Christ preached with signs and wonders following.

1. Phillip preached Christ to people in Samaria.
  - a. The word Christ means anointed.
  - b. Phillip didn’t preach sin consciousness to them. He preached the anointed one who is the one who gives us the ability to change.
  - c. The anointed one (Jesus) backed Phillip with signs and wonders.
  - d. The miracles caused people to respond to the message that was preached (This is what we saw in the other revivals we have studied.)
2. Testimony of last week. Keith shared his testimony about how his vision was blurry and he thought he might be going blind and received prayer and Jesus healed him. I then shared Revelation 19:10 the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy and said that Jesus would heal other people with eye issues because of that testimony. I’m aware of 4 people who received prayer after service and were partially or totally healed of eye issues.
3. The Lord confirms the word through signs and wonders - **Mark 16:20**.
4. Verse 8 Great joy in the city. Signs and wonders aren’t new here, but I am sharing this because I want to see us break into a new realm. It’s not that I’m not thankful for what God is doing here, but there has got to be more.
  - a. Hebrides Revival 1949 - Duncan Campbell - First, let me tell you what I mean by revival. An evangelistic campaign or special meeting is not

revival. In a successful evangelistic campaign or crusade, there will be hundreds or even thousands of people making decisions for Jesus Christ, but the community remains untouched, and the churches continue much the same as before the outreach. In revival, God moves in the district. Suddenly, the community becomes God conscious. The Spirit of God grips men and women in such a way that even work is given up as people give themselves to waiting upon God. In the midst of the Lewis Awakening, the parish minister at Barvas wrote, "The Spirit of the Lord was resting wonderfully on the different townships of the region. His Presence was in the homes of the people, on meadow and moorland, and even on the public roads." This presence of God is the supreme characteristic of a God-sent revival. Of the hundreds who found Jesus Christ during this time fully seventy-five per cent were saved before they came near a meeting or heard a sermon by myself or any other ministers in the parish. The power of God, the Spirit of God, was moving in operation, and the fear of God gripped the souls of men - this is God-sent revival as distinct from special efforts in the field of evangelism.

b. Unusual manifestations occurred - lights appearing to show people the way home from church in the dark, 200 people spontaneously meeting at a police station in the middle of the night to pray with none knowing how they got there, homes shaken like being in an earthquake when people gathered to pray.

c. 20,000 converts within first five weeks.

d. I'm sharing this testimony because there is a power in the testimony to see Jesus do it again.

#### **B. Acts 8:9-17** The Holy Spirit is for All (Everyone Gets To Be A World Changer)

1. The power of God manifested through Phillip and multitudes of people were baptized. This was such a powerful move of God that a man who was involved in witchcraft and bedazzled the city got saved.

2. Peter and John come to Samaria to make sure the people are filled with the Holy Spirit. There is a difference between the spirit within that saves us and the spirit upon that brings power to change the world around us. They wanted these people to have this power.

#### **C. Acts 8:18-25** Opposition to the Move of God

1. Sometimes opposition comes in the form of the obvious (overt persecution).

2. Sometimes it comes in the form of something that looks like it might be God (Simon the Sorcerer wanting to buy the Holy Spirit) but is not.

3. How do we know the difference? Depend on the spirit of God. All revivals have to be pastored properly to see them increase and not quenched.

3. John Arnott story - Pastor of the Vineyard Church in Toronto where the Toronto Blessing started - 12 year revival. Previous to that revival he had pastored in another city and seen an outpouring of the spirit, but some weird stuff began to happen so he pulled the reigns in and stopped the move of God. He ended the revival prematurely. There will be wild fire where there is real fire.
4. Because I know this, I tend to let things play out that seem weird or different. Why? I don't want to quench a move of the Holy Spirit. I will put a stop to things when I know they aren't God, but I give grace and space because God I know enough to God is bigger than my box.
  - a. **2 Kings 5:10-14** - Elisha tells Naaman to wash 7 times in the Jordan River to be healed of his leprosy. Naaman gets upset and says aren't their better rivers in Damascus I could wash.
  - b. His servant told him, if the prophet asked you to do a great thing would you have done it, now he is asking you to do a little thing.
  - c. He relented and was healed. The point is we don't get to choose the way God moves, we just need to be open even if it is different.
5. Things do have to be pastored when they are obviously not God which is what Peter did in this passage. We have to deal with flaky Christians in revival (we don't get rid of them though).

#### D. Recent Opposition We Have Faced

1. Tried to start a Good News Club and Guilford County Schools wouldn't allow schools to send home flyers to let their parents know about the club. CEF got legal counsel involved and Guilford County relented and let forms go home.
2. Simultaneous to that Joyner Elementary School has begun a Satan Club. The Satan Club believes Satan is a mythical figure that represents freedom and wants to convert children to a scientific, rationalist, and non-superstitious world view.
3. Guilford County Schools just said neither club can meet. We are believing for revival and Satan has tried to invade our revival like he did in Acts 8.
4. We need to do at least 2 things.
  - a. We need to pray (we need a community gripped by Jesus like in Samaria or in the Hebrides Revival.
  - b. Contact your school board representative and ask them to allow both clubs to meet. We don't need the move of God stopped by Satan and even if the Satan club meets, our God is bigger than their god..

III. Conclusion - Let's believe God for a revival that will change our city. Let's all pray and get involved as the Holy Spirit leads us.

A. Call Up Prayer Team

B. Pray Closing Prayer