

## Great Joy in the City- Acts 8, Pg. 1011

### A. Saul the Persecutor 8:3-4

Regular people “went everywhere preaching the word,” while the apostles stayed in Jerusalem.

### B. Philip the Evangelist 8:5-8

When the people heard the Good News of Jesus there was great joy in the city.

### C. Simon the Sorcerer 8:9-23

Magic referred originally to the lore of the magi—the priests of the Medo-Persians. It was a mix of science and superstition, combining astrology, divination, and occultic practices with history, mathematics, and agriculture. It could be trickery or demonic.  
-John MacArthur

Simon believed and was baptized! Was this sorcerer genuinely converted? **No**  
Matthew 13:18-23; James 2:19

The word *believe* does not always mean saving faith.

Profession, baptism, church membership, communion, office of Elder or teacher—none of these things make us saved!

Admit  
Believe  
Choose

## D. God the Spirit

8:14-17

God's Holy Spirit indwells every Christian at the moment of salvation.

1 Corinthians 12:13; Romans 8:9; Ephesians 1:13-14

This was the transitional period for the Church Age. God used miraculous signs to demonstrate that the invisible miracle of Holy Spirit indwelling was a genuine work of God.

By delaying the Spirit's coming until Peter and John arrived, God preserved the **unity** of the church. The apostles needed to see for themselves, and give firsthand testimony to the Jerusalem church, that the Spirit came upon the Samaritans. The Samaritans also needed to learn that they were subject to **apostolic authority**. The Jewish believers and the Samaritans were thus linked together into one body.  
-MacArthur New Testament Commentary

Challenge: Pray daily for one month-  
*Holy Spirit I know you are God. I believe that You have come to live within me. Please control me today; my actions, my words and my thoughts. I'm moving into the passenger seat and letting You take the wheel. Produce Your fruit in my life and glorify Yourself through me. Amen*