



## **PAY ATTENTION TO GOD!**

Acts 8:1–25 | Pastor Mohan Zachariah

2/8/2026

### **1. Pressure: See how persecution fuels the mission of God (Acts 8:1–3)**

The persecution following Stephen's death scatters the church, but this scattering fulfills God's mission rather than stopping it. God uses pressure to accomplish purposes that the church had delayed.

#### **Application Questions:**

1. Why did persecution arise against the church at this time?
2. How does this passage challenge the idea that hardship always means God is against us?
3. Where might God be inviting you to trust Him instead of clinging to comfort or familiarity?

### **2. Proclamation: Experience the fruit of the Word of God (Acts 8:4–13)**

Those who are scattered do not stop preaching—they proclaim Christ wherever they go. Philip's preaching is accompanied by clear fruit: repentance, healing, deliverance, and joy. The crowds pay close attention, not just to signs, but to the Word that explains them.

#### **Application Questions:**

1. Why was the good news of the Gospel more persuasive than Simon's magic?
2. How might God want to use your ordinary faithfulness to bear fruit in someone else's life?

### **3. Power: Live in submission to the Holy Spirit (Acts 8:14–17)**

The Samaritan believers received the Holy Spirit through prayer and the laying on of hands by the apostles. This unique moment confirms that the same Spirit is given to Jews and Samaritans alike. The emphasis is not on power for display, but on unity, submission, and God's sovereign work.

#### **Application Questions:**

1. Why was it important for Peter and John to go to Samaria?
2. How does submission to the Spirit differ from trying to control spiritual outcomes?
3. In what ways might God be calling you to trust His presence rather than chase spiritual experiences?

### **4. Purity: Look out for any evil intent of your heart (Acts 8:18–25)**

Simon's desire for power reveals a heart that wants to use God rather than submit to Him. Peter confronts the intent of Simon's heart and calls him to repentance. The danger is not lack of belief, but corrupted motives that treat God as a means instead of a King.



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### **Application Questions:**

- Why did Simon think he could obtain the gift of God with money?
- How does this passage challenge you to examine not just your actions, but the intent of your heart?
- What would daily repentance look like in guarding your heart against pride or self-rule?