

Study Questions January 14 & 15

Read Acts 8:5-25

Philip, though a Deacon and not an Apostle, functions like an apostle as he ventures into Samaria. He is able to perform signs that are in keeping with the power of the Holy Spirit to authenticate the message he brings about Jesus. How does this affect the way we understand the discipleship and mission of believers everywhere-- even you?

Simon the Magician is mentioned as one who believes Philip's message and is baptized along with other Samaritan believers. He then is described as watching the apostles' hands on other believers who then receive the Holy Spirit (8:14-18). Why didn't the Holy Spirit come to those believers as they believed Philip's message? What was different about Simon's "belief" from those who believed and received the Holy Spirit? What kind of belief do you possess concerning Jesus?