

**BETTER**

Acts 8: 9-24

# Acts 1:8

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But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

# Acts 8:1

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Now Saul was consenting to his death. At that time a great persecution arose against the church which was at Jerusalem; and they were all scattered throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria, except the apostles.

# Discernment

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- Perception in the absence of judgment with a view to obtaining spiritual direction and understanding.

# 1 John 1:4

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Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world.

# Acts 8: 9-11

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But there was a certain man called Simon, who previously practiced sorcery in the city and astonished the people of Samaria, claiming that he was someone great, <sup>10</sup> to whom they all gave heed, from the least to the greatest, saying, “This man is the great power of God.” <sup>11</sup> And they heeded him because he had astonished them with his sorceries for a long time.

# Acts 8:12

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But when they believed Philip as he preached the things concerning the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, both men and women were baptized.

# Acts 8:13

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Then Simon himself also believed; and when he was baptized he continued with Philip, and was amazed, seeing the miracles and signs which were done.



# Exodus 7: 8-13

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Then the Lord spoke to Moses and Aaron, saying, <sup>9</sup> “When Pharaoh speaks to you, saying, ‘Show a miracle for yourselves,’ then you shall say to Aaron, ‘Take your rod and cast *it* before Pharaoh, *and* let it become a serpent.’” <sup>10</sup> So Moses and Aaron went in to Pharaoh, and they did so, just as the Lord commanded. And Aaron cast down his rod before Pharaoh and before his servants, and it became a serpent.

# Exodus 7: 8-13

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<sup>11</sup> But Pharaoh also called the wise men and the sorcerers; the magicians of Egypt, they also did in like manner with their enchantments. <sup>12</sup> For every man threw down his rod, and they became serpents. But Aaron's rod swallowed up their rods.

# Acts 8: 14-16

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Now when the apostles who were at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them, <sup>15</sup> who, when they had come down, prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit. <sup>16</sup> For as yet He had fallen upon none of them. They had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.

# Luke 9: 51-56

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Now it came to pass, when the time had come for Him to be received up, that He steadfastly set His face to go to Jerusalem, <sup>52</sup> and sent messengers before His face. And as they went, they entered a village of the Samaritans, to prepare for Him. <sup>53</sup> But they did not receive Him, because His face was *set* for the journey to Jerusalem.

# Luke 9: 51-56

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<sup>54</sup> And when His disciples James and John saw *this*, they said, “Lord, do You want us to command fire to come down from heaven and consume them, just as Elijah did?”

<sup>55</sup> But He turned and rebuked them, and said, “You do not know what manner of spirit you are of. <sup>56</sup> For the Son of Man did not come to destroy men’s lives but to save *them*.” And they went to another village.

# Acts 8: 17-19

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Then they laid hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

<sup>18</sup> And when Simon saw that through the laying on of the apostles' hands the Holy Spirit was given, he offered them money, <sup>19</sup> saying, "Give me this power also, that anyone on whom I lay hands may receive the Holy Spirit."

# Acts 8: 20

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But Peter said to him, “Your money perish with you, because you thought that the gift of God could be purchased with money!”

# Acts 8:21

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You have neither part nor portion in this matter, for your heart is not right in the sight of God.



# Jeremiah 17:9

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“The heart *is* deceitful above all *things*,  
And desperately wicked;  
Who can know it?

# Acts 8: 22-23

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Repent therefore of this your wickedness, and pray God if perhaps the thought of your heart may be forgiven you. <sup>23</sup> For I see that you are poisoned by bitterness and bound by iniquity.”

# Acts 8:24

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Then Simon answered and said, “Pray to the Lord for me, that none of the things which you have spoken may come upon me.”