

SPREAD THE WORD

A SERIES IN ACTS

Faithful
Ambassadors
Acts 8:4-25

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Associate Pastor

 bethel *community*
CHURCH

Faithful Ambassadors

Faithful Ambassadors

Acts 8:4-25 Now those who were scattered went about preaching the word. **5** Philip went down to the city of Samaria and proclaimed to them the Christ. **6** And the crowds with one accord paid attention to what was being said by Philip when they heard him and saw the signs that he did. **7** For unclean spirits, crying out with a loud voice, came out of many who had them, and many who were paralyzed or lame were healed. **8** So there was much joy in that city. -

Faithful Ambassadors

9 But there was a man named Simon, who had previously practiced magic in the city and amazed the people of Samaria, saying that he himself was somebody great. 10 They all paid attention to him, from the least to the greatest, saying, “This man is the power of God that is called Great.” 11 And they paid attention to him because for a long time he had amazed them with his magic. 12 But when they believed Philip as he preached good news about the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women. -

Faithful Ambassadors

13 Even Simon himself believed, and after being baptized he continued with Philip. And seeing signs and great miracles performed, he was amazed. **14** Now when the apostles at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent to them Peter and John, **15** who came down and prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit, **16** for he had not yet fallen on any of them, but they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. **17** Then they laid their hands on them and they received the Holy Spirit. -

Faithful Ambassadors

18 Now when Simon saw that the Spirit was given through the laying on of the apostles' hands, he offered them money, 19 saying, "Give me this power also, so that anyone on whom I lay my hands may receive the Holy Spirit." 20 But Peter said to him, "May your silver perish with you, because you thought you could obtain the gift of God with money! 21 You have neither part nor lot in this matter, for your heart is not right before God. -

Faithful Ambassadors

22 Repent, therefore, of this wickedness of yours, and pray to the Lord that, if possible, the intent of your heart may be forgiven you. 23 For I see that you are in the gall of bitterness and in the bond of iniquity.” 24 And Simon answered, “Pray for me to the Lord, that nothing of what you have said may come upon me.” 25 Now when they had testified and spoken the word of the Lord, they returned to Jerusalem, preaching the gospel to many villages of the Samaritans. (ESV)

Faithful Ambassadors

Faithful Ambassadors

I. Ambassadors boldly proclaim the Word of God.

A. The Word of God spreads when believers are scattered.

4 Now those who were scattered went about preaching the word.

- *2 Corinthians 2:14 But thanks be to God, who in Christ always leads us in triumphal procession, and through us spreads the fragrance of the knowledge of him everywhere.*

Faithful Ambassadors

I. Ambassadors boldly proclaim the Word of God.

B. When the Word of God is proclaimed others pay attention.

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Faithful Ambassadors

I. Ambassadors boldly proclaim the Word of God.

B. When the Word of God is proclaimed others pay attention.

- *Philippians 1:12-14 I want you to know, brothers, that what has happened to me has really served to advance the gospel, 13 so that it has become known throughout the whole imperial guard and to all the rest that my imprisonment is for Christ. -*

Faithful Ambassadors

I. Ambassadors boldly proclaim the Word of God.

B. When the Word of God is proclaimed others pay attention.

- *14 And most of the brothers, having become confident in the Lord by my imprisonment, are much more bold to speak the word without fear.*

Faithful Ambassadors

- I. Ambassadors boldly proclaim the Word of God.
- C. The Word of God sets people free and it causes much joy.
7 For unclean spirits, crying out with a loud voice, came out of many who had them, and many who were paralyzed or lame were healed. 8 So there was much joy in that city.

Faithful Ambassadors

II. Ambassadors proclaim the Good News which results in professions of faith.

A. Proclaiming the Good News leads people out of darkness.

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A. Proclaiming the Good News leads people out of darkness.

- *Colossians 1:13-14 He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, 14 in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.*

Faithful Ambassadors

II. Ambassadors proclaim the Good News which results in professions of faith.

B. Proclaiming the Good News enables people to believe and be baptized.

12 But when they believed Philip as he preached good news about the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women. -

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II. Ambassadors proclaim the Good News which results in professions of faith.

C. Proclaiming the Good News leads to faith and the receiving of the Holy Spirit.

14 Now when the apostles at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent to them Peter and John, 15 who came down and prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit, -

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C. Proclaiming the Good News leads to faith and the receiving of the Holy Spirit.

- *Ezekiel 36:26-27 And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. 27 And I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my rules.*

Faithful Ambassadors

III. Ambassadors courageously confront any perversions of the Gift of God.

A. It is wrong to seek the Holy Spirit for personal gain.

18 Now when Simon saw that the Spirit was given through the laying on of the apostles' hands, he offered them money,

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III. Ambassadors courageously confront any perversions of the Gift of God.

B. It is wrong to seek power and prestige from imparting the Holy Spirit.

19 saying, “Give me this power also, so that anyone on whom I lay my hands may receive the Holy Spirit.”

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B. It is wrong to seek power and prestige from imparting the Holy Spirit.

- *Acts 16:16-18 As we were going to the place of prayer, we were met by a slave girl who had a spirit of divination and brought her owners much gain by fortune-telling. 17 She followed Paul and us, crying out, “These men are servants of the Most High God, who proclaim to you the -*

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- *way of salvation.” 18 And this she kept doing for many days. Paul, having become greatly annoyed, turned and said to the spirit, “I command you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her.” And it came out that very hour.*

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C. Wrong motives in ministry need to be directly confronted and confessed.

20 But Peter said to him, “May your silver perish with you, because you thought you could obtain the gift of God with money! 21 You have neither part nor lot in this matter, for your heart is not right before God. 22 Repent, therefore, of this wickedness of yours, and pray to the Lord that, if -

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- *Deuteronomy 29:18 Beware lest there be among you a man or woman or clan or tribe whose heart is turning away today from the Lord our God to go and serve the gods of those nations. Beware lest there be among you a root bearing poisonous and bitter fruit,*

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- *Hebrews 12:15 See to it that no one fails to obtain the grace of God; that no “root of bitterness” springs up and causes trouble, and by it many become defiled;*

Faithful Ambassadors

III. Ambassadors courageously confront any perversions of the Gift of God.

D. Being convinced that God is at work motivates us to keep preaching the Gospel.

25 Now when they had testified and spoken the word of the Lord, they returned to Jerusalem, preaching the gospel to many villages of the Samaritans.

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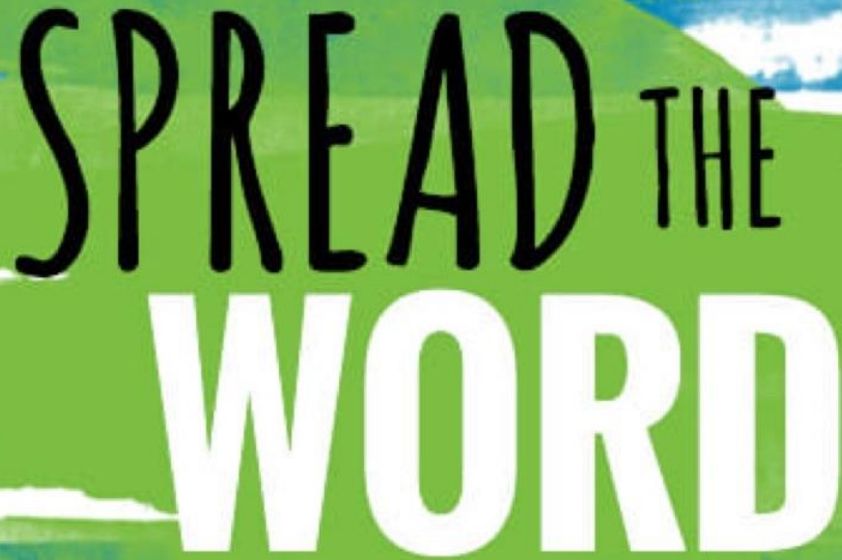
We become faithful ambassadors for Christ when we:

Boldly proclaim His Word.

Convert lost people to Christ.

Confront false perversions of God's gift.

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