



THE LORD'S WORK IN THE LORD'S WAY • ACTS 8:4-25

In Acts 8:4–25 contrasts two kinds of spiritual work: one in which the Spirit of God blesses the effort and the other which the Lord resists. These verses detail the beginning of the Gospel spreading into Samaria and the joy that it brought and reveal that those who desire to minister to others in the power of God must do “The Lord’s Work in the Lord’s Way.” We will outline our study by looking first at *1. The Joy of The Lord’s Work*, second *2. The Necessity of the Lord’s Way*, and finally *3. The Continuing Work of the Lord*.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. *Shaping Question:* As we work for God in this fallen world, what are we trusting in?
2. Look at verses 4-8. What was the reason for the joy in that city? And what were some of the features of God’s work that led to this joy, as noted by Matt?
3. Think about the context of how Philip came to Samaria—it was because of Stephen’s death and the persecution of the Christians in Jerusalem, all by God’s providence. How did God’s providence bring you to The Trails?
4. What warnings can we learn from the story of Simon the magician? How are you tempted to distort the gospel the way he did?
5. Now look at verse 25. List the many synonyms used for sharing the gospel in this verse. How is this verse a continuation of Acts 1:8? And what are the implications for us today?

PRAY: Praise God for his providence which brought you to this church and this group of people. Confess ways in which you’re tempted to trust in other things as you seek to do God’s work. Thank him for his faithfulness to his word, and to those who have gone before us to proclaim his word. And finally, pray that The Trails would continue to be a church rooted in the gospel and that the Lord would continue to bless our work as it’s done in his way.