



# Great Joy In The City

**"Then Philip went down to the city of Samaria, and preached Christ unto them" (Acts 8:5).**

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"Then Philip went down to the city of Samaria, and preached Christ unto them. 6 And the people with one accord gave heed unto those things which Philip spake, hearing and seeing the miracles which he did. 7 For unclean spirits, crying with loud voice, came out of many that were possessed with them: and many taken with palsies, and that were lame, were healed. 8 And there was great joy in that city. 9 But there was a certain man, called Simon, which beforetime in the same city used sorcery, and bewitched the people of Samaria, giving out that himself was some great one: 10 To whom they all gave heed, from the least to the greatest, saying, This man is the great power of God. 11 And to him they had regard, because that of long time he had bewitched them with sorceries. 12 But when they believed Philip preaching the things concerning the kingdom of God, and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women. 13 Then Simon himself believed also: and when he was baptized, he continued with Philip, and wondered, beholding the miracles and signs which were done" (Acts 8:5-13).

"And there was great joy in that city" (Acts 8:8). As God brought great joy into the city of Samaria, He can do the same in your city today, because Jesus Christ is "... the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever" (Hebrews 13:8).

It is interesting to note that the same persecution that scattered the church in Jerusalem, brought great joy into the city of Samaria. How did this come about? And How can we replicate this in our cities today?

- 1) A total focus on Jesus despite the associated loss and plight of having to flee from Jerusalem
- 2) Obedience to the great commission "Then Philip went down to the city of Samaria, and preached Christ unto them" (vs 5)
- 3) Giving heed to the word and miracles of God "And the people with one accord gave heed unto those things which Philip spake, hearing and seeing the miracles which he did" (vs 6)
- 4) Breaking the satanic strongholds and bondages that sets the captives free and healing the sick through the release of the power of God by faith "For unclean spirits, crying with loud voice, came out of many that were possessed with them: and many taken with palsies, and that were lame, were healed" (vs 7)

**"And there was great joy in that city" (Acts 8:8).**

- 5) Opening up to the Spirit of God that imparts joy, peace and blessings "And there was great joy in that city" (vs 8)
- 6) Deliverance from the dominating powers of witches and sorcerers through conversion and faith in Christ "But there was a certain man, called Simon, which beforetime in the same city used sorcery, and bewitched the people of Samaria, giving out that himself was some great one: 10 To whom they all gave heed, from the least to the greatest, saying, This man is the great power of God. 11 And to him they had regard, because that of long time he had bewitched them with sorceries. 12 But when they believed Philip preaching the things concerning the kingdom of God, and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women" (vs 9-12)
- 7) Submission to scriptural ordinances "But when they believed Philip preaching the things concerning the kingdom of God, and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women 13 Then Simon himself believed also: and when he was baptized, he continued with Philip, and wondered, beholding the miracles and signs which were done" (vs 12-13)
- 8) Continuing with the believers in faith and fellowship and beholding the work and wonders of God "Then Simon himself believed also: and when he was baptized, he continued with Philip, and wondered, beholding the miracles and signs which were done" (vs 13)".

Samaria lay under bondage to spiritual forces that robbed the inhabitants of joy, purpose, freedom and peace. As long as Satan continued to reign there, there was no hope of any change. But when Philip descended into Jerusalem with the power of God it all changed!

What is your Samaria today? Is it your life, family, town, city, country, place of work, etc.? Has it been plagued by dark powers of sin, bondage, sickness, oppression, etc? It is time for "Philip" to step in with the light of God. When light steps in, darkness is dispelled. **And that "Philip" is you!**