

## **The Word Spreads to Samaria**

**Intro:** This section shows the Word as it begins to break away from the temple and penetrate Samaria. Once the disciples move outside the Jewish realm there are new obstacles to overcome but God's word continues to spread in the power of His grace and Spirit.

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### **1 – Opposition can become the very means for the spread of the Word (v1-4)**

### **2 – Ordinary believers are used by God to spread the Word (v1-4)**

### **3 – God and His Word prove greater than hostile supernatural forces (v5-13)**

- The historical background of Samaria (1 Kings 12; Jn. 4; Luke 9)
- The historical background of "magic" (Ex. 7-8:19; Acts 13:8)
- The confrontation of powers according to Luke (8:10, 13)
- Dark forces are still at work opposing the gospel (Eph. 6:12; 1 Jn 4:1-3)

### **4 – God's Word overcomes all ethnic barriers (v5, 8, 12)**

- The overwhelming reception of the gospel (v8, 12)
- The puzzle of the delayed gift of the Spirit (2:38, 8:16, 11:15-17; Rom. 8:9; Eph 1:13)
  - The salvation-historical necessity of apostolic affirmation
  - The necessity of preserving the unity of the body by humbling the Samaritans (Jn 4:20ff)

### **5 – God's power cannot be manipulated or controlled (v18-24)**

- Simon wanted power OVER the Spirit rather than coming UNDER the Spirit's power
- The Holy Spirit is a gift sovereignly and freely bestowed on all who repent and believe in Jesus (Acts 2:38; 10:45; 11:17; Eph 1:13)

## **Concluding reflections**

### **Discussion Questions**

1. Can you recall some moments when you have been aware of providential opportunities to evangelize? Did you take advantage of them?
2. Who are the individuals or people you tend to see outside of God's reach?
3. What are some bondages you have seen people delivered from by the gospel?
4. What are some subtle ways even as believers we can try to control God's power?