

Faith That Does Not Save

Acts 8:1-24

Acts: The Real Church

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1. Persecution became **public policy** (8:1-3).
 - a. Persecution was (is) **inevitable**.
 - b. Persecution had a **radical face**.
2. Persistent preaching had a **powerful impact** (v.4-8).
 - a. **Persecution** can have a positive result.
 - b. **Prejudice** was put aside.
 - c. **Preaching** the word makes disciples v.6-7, 12.
3. Powerful ministry attracts **imposters** (v. 9-24).
 - a. Simon was blinded by pride and **self-worth** (9-11).
 - b. Simon believed in salvation by **ritual**. (v.12-13a).
 - c. Simon's religion was one of **self-interest** (13b-19).
 - d. Simon's experience didn't **reach his heart** (v.20-24)

Examine yourself to see if you are truly saved; in the faith.

- You can't be saved without seeing your **sin** and need of a savior
- You can't be saved by going through the **motions**.
- You can't be saved when your real motive is to **manipulate** God.
- You can't be saved until you **repent**, believe the gospel, and call out in faith from the heart. You can't **borrow** faith.

The saddest truth is how close a person can come to salvation and miss it altogether. The broad gate and the narrow gate are **side by side**.