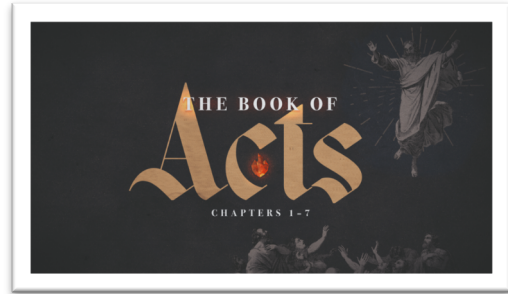


## THE INTENT OF THE HEART

ACTS 8:4-25 // PASTOR TODD DUGARD  
OCT 3, 2021



*Is the intent of my heart centred on the gospel? 1) Am I saved? (8:5-7, 9-13) 2) Am I missional? (8:4, 25) 3) Am I joyful? (8:8) 4) Am I Spirit-filled? (8:14-17) 5) Am I a repentant? (8:18-24)*

## GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- 1. In this passage we are introduced to a man named Simon the Magus, or we might say, The Great Simon. He was a celebrity in Samaria who made his living through occultism. Before Philip came preaching the gospel, Simon had a large following.** What do you think attracts people to the power and greatness of occult practices? Do
- 2. Simon believed the gospel message and was baptized. He began to follow Philip and was amazed at the signs and miracles Philip performed (Acts 8:13).** Was Simon sincere in his faith? What evidence in the text leads you to conclude he had been saved?
- 3. In Acts 6:4, Philip is mentioned among the disciples who were set apart to manage the daily distribution. Yet in this chapter, we see Philip acting as a person on mission.** What happened to change the plan for Philip's ministry (Acts 8:3-5)? What are some ways for an individual to engage with the mission of Christ in your city or neighbourhood?
- 4. Do you think that being joyful (Acts 8:8) is always related to believing in God (Acts 8:12) and being spirit filled (Acts 8:17)?** Why might God give us the experience of joy when we trust him for salvation?
- 5. The sermon ended with a reminder to embrace your identity as a "repentant". Part of this strategy involves uncovering intent behind sinful activity. Peter pointed out bitterness in Simon's heart and his entanglement with the occult. Simon had to repent.** Who has God used to point out the intentions in your heart? How did you react to that? What process helps you realize what sin holds you back from fully enjoying the effect of believing the gospel?