

## ***Study Hints for Discussion and Thinking Further*** ***International Bible Lessons***

**Acts 8:9-25**

**Sunday October 4, 2015**

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Some Bible study groups or classes can further discussion by asking some or all of the **Questions for Discussion and Thinking Further** below. Others may want to send the bulletin size *International Bible Lesson* home with their students for further study in the coming week to encourage continuing Bible study. The *Study Hints for Discussion and Thinking Further* below are not actually intended to be *the answers* to the discussion questions. These indeed are “hints” a teacher may use to help students think through and discuss the questions in class. The *Class Preparation Guide* includes the questions below, and it can be given to students at the end of the previous class so they can pray, read, and think ahead to prepare for the next week’s Bible class.

### **Questions for Discussion and Thinking Further**

**1. What do you think was the source of Simon’s magic or sorcery? Give a reason for your answer.**

See the *International Bible Lesson Commentary* for discussion on two possible sources of his magic.

**2. Why do you think people listened eagerly to Simon?**

He called himself Great. He worked magic that amazed them and was beyond their understanding. Some were demon possessed. Evil spirits can deceive some people. Since many believed in him, others wanted to join with the majority and follow the crowd.

### **3. What did Philip proclaim and why do you think people listened to him?**

Philip proclaimed “good news” about the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ. He healed many and cast out demons (see *Commentary*). The Holy Spirit blessed the truths he taught and helped people understand and accept the truth.

### **4. Why do you think the Church in Jerusalem sent Peter and John to see Philip?**

To verify with two witnesses what they had heard about Philip and his mission work in Samaria; to reassure the Church in Jerusalem that the work was a true work of Jesus Christ, if it was; to give additional teaching and correct any possible misunderstandings; to make certain no heretics (such as Simon, possibly) would mislead the new believers.

### **5. How might Simon’s belief been different from the others who believed, and why do you think he did not receive the Holy Spirit along with those who received the Holy Spirit when the apostles laid their hands on them?**

His belief led him into bitterness that he was not as good in magical powers as Philip, Peter, and John. He did not bow his heart before Jesus to make Jesus the Lord of his life. He did not seek Jesus as the Savior from sin. He loved money and was self-centered. The Holy Spirit knew his heart was unclean and He would not enter into him.

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