

Valley Bible Church - Sermon Study Questions

**Study Aid for the Sermon from September 30, 2012
The Ministry of Philip to Simon
Acts 8:9-24**

Observing the text

What is the significance of Simon's background (Acts 8:9-11)?

List reasons why Simon might have been a true believer and reasons why he might not have been. Which do you think is more likely?

Why didn't the Samaritans receive the Holy Spirit immediately upon belief (Acts 8:14-17)?

What was the problem with what Simon did in Acts 8:19? Why was Peter's response so dramatic (Acts 8:20-23)?

Applying the sermon

Were you baptized after you first believed in Christ? If not, speak with one of our ministry leaders about this.

What would you say to someone who teaches that based on Acts 8, the baptism of the Holy Spirit occurs after belief?

After considering Peter's words to Simon, how has your view of people using spiritual things for financial gain changed?

What are the difficulties of trying to identify whether someone is a true believer in Christ when ministering to them?