

# MY NOTES

## THANK YOU FOR JOINING US TODAY!

Thank you for joining us today. This is a short note to let you know that we know what you are thinking: It is hot and cramped in this room. We want to acknowledge with you that yes, the front room is full, the kids rooms are full, and it can get warm. We are working on alleviating this right now by building our own building on the land just north of us.

There is a lot that goes into the process of Element having a permanent home, but we hope that today you are first drawn to Jesus before you are overwhelmed by anything else. If it gets too hot, we may hand out popsicles to help you cool off and give you a sugar rush. If you would like a service that has open seats (and is cooler), you are invited to our 8:15am service. Please understand that all of these “challenges” are because of our love for Jesus, people, and growth that has come quickly. These are good things. We hope you will stay as we work to make more room for you to be part of the good thing Jesus is doing here. If you would like more information about our building process or how you can participate, you can visit: [www.elementroots.org](http://www.elementroots.org).

- The Element Team

Week 23

# ACTS

## A Spirit That Humbles Us

### TODAY'S VERSES:

#### Acts 8:9-25

Psalm 49:4

Matthew 28:19

Acts 1:8

Luke 11:20

Acts 21:8

Acts 8:8

James 4:10

1 Peter 5:6

### UPCOMING @ ELEMENT

#### Planting Roots Update

We are currently 58% of the way through our 3-year Journey. Received from Commitments: 45% Total Received: 52%

#### Give Via Amazon

Register with [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com) and Element gets a small percentage of every purchase!

**Baptisms** September 4th. Information Meeting next Sunday, July 17th following each service.





So far in Acts:

Guidance That Leads Us

A Heritage That  
Informs Us

Worship That  
Reminds Us

Preaching That  
Changes Us

Generosity That  
Defines Us

Compassion That Is  
Bigger Than Us

Truth That  
Challenges Us

Community That  
Encourages Us

Membership That  
Accounts For Us

Accountability That  
Exposes Us

A Hope That Heals Us

A Joy In Our Identity

A Lifestyle of Mission

Leadership That Grows  
Through Mistakes

A Peace That  
Speaks For Us

A Theology That  
Informs Us

A Calling That Kills Us

Words That Scatter Us

## Week 23 – Acts 8:9-25 A Spirit That Humbles Us

We are nearly two-thirds of the way through our verse by verse journey in the first half of the book of Acts. We are slowly making our way through the book of Acts in order to help us better understand the early church, their calling, their ministry, and their mission so we will also be able to use that knowledge to inform us about how a Church should ideally operate.

**What do you think of when you think of Magic?**

**Who is your favorite “magician”?**

As we saw last week, Phillip journeyed into the area of Samaria to spread the good news of the message of Jesus. While in Samaria, many people believe in Jesus and get baptized to show their new faith...including a man named Simon who was a magician.

**Read Acts 8:9-25.**

**If you could pinpoint one thing you want from God right now, what would it be?**

Simon the Magician did not want Christ's Gospel to change his life; Simon wanted power so he could be great. Acts 8:18-19 says, *“Now when Simon saw that the Spirit was given through the laying on of the apostles' hands, he offered them money, saying, “Give me this power also, so that anyone on whom I lay my hands may receive the Holy Spirit.”*

**Have you ever tried to manipulate God to get something?**

**What/How?**

Simon believed that he could buy the Spirit of God; essentially Simon wanted the POWER to give the Spirit, but didn't want the Spirit Himself. Simon missed something of ultimate importance, the Spirit of God is not something that is given by man, it is a gift directly from God.

**Have you ever been rebuked?**

**Define “rebuked.”**

Peter had enough of Simon's flawed theology and laid some hard truth on Simon. Peter says, *“May your silver perish with you, because you thought you could obtain the gift of God with money! You have neither part nor lot in this matter, for your heart is not right before God. Repent, therefore, of this wickedness of yours, and pray to the Lord that, if possible, the intent of your heart may be forgiven you. For I see that you are in the gall of bitterness and in the bond of iniquity.”*

**How do you respond when someone calls you out?**

Instead of taking responsibility for his own actions, Simon refuses to submit to Jesus. He pleads with Peter to intercede on his behalf before God. Simon does not want to approach God Himself, he wants someone else to own his faith. *And Simon answered, “Pray for me to the Lord, that nothing of what you have said may come upon me.”* Simon won't even pray; he still thinks it is something someone else has to do because Simon doesn't want a relationship with God, he only wants to escape punishment.

**Do you believe you can approach God yourself or do you believe someone else needs to communicate with God for you?**

Attrition is repentance based on a threat or a consequence (because there is a sword at your throat, a gun at your head). Contrition is where our hearts are truly broken over our sin and having offended a good and holy God. True repentance is not about getting out of trouble, it is recognizing that without Jesus we are all lost.

It is important that we own our mistakes and become humble when rebuked. God's Spirit brings humbleness. If we are not humble, we are not filled with the Spirit. Simon didn't want to be humble, he wanted a power to be great. The real power of God is extended to you as gift, those who believe and receive.

**How does owning our mistakes make us more humble?**

God's Spirit gives us the vision to see Jesus, He changes our hearts to see the world as He does, and to bring unity to those around us as only He can.