

Reflections on the Character of God

The reflection section has five scriptures that pertain to this week's aspect of God's character. Take one passage a day and reflect on it in the context you find. Note your insights.

The life response sections give you two more verses to ponder. These passages relate to your response to the name, title, or attribute of God. Write down practical responses.

Servant

Reflection: Matthew 20:20-28; Luke 22:24-27; John 13:1-5;
2 Corinthians 6:3-10; Philippians 2:5-11

Life Response: John 13:12-17; Ephesians 6:5-8



**A Discipleship Journey - Acts of The Holy Spirit
Scattered - May 29, 2022**

"Therefore, those who had been scattered went about preaching the word."

The word for "scattered" is an agricultural term; which describes the sowing of seed.

A witness is not a trained person, but one who is qualified on the basis of their experience.

John said, "That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you."

Phillip – went down to the city of Samaria and began proclaiming Christ to them."

Results: Crowds were giving attention.
Unclean spirits came out.
Many were healed.
There was much rejoicing.

Simon – Formerly practiced magic.
Claimed to be someone great.
Called the Great Power of God.

Believed Phillip's preaching.
Was baptized.
Followed Phillip.
Was constantly amazed.

The apostles in Jerusalem –
Sent Peter and John.
They prayed for them to receive the Holy Spirit.
They laid hands upon the believers.
The believers received the Holy Spirit.

Five incidents in Acts of receiving the Holy Spirit.

Acts 2:4 God poured out the Holy Spirit
Acts 8:17 The Samaritans received the Holy Spirit
Acts 9:17 Saul receives the Holy Spirit
Acts 10:44-46 Cornelius received the Holy Spirit
Acts 19:1-6 Paul at Ephesus

Simon didn't say, "Can I have the Holy Spirit?" Instead, Simon said, "Can I have the power of the Holy Spirit?"

There is a fine line between serving God and serving ourselves!

"May your silver perish with you, because you thought you could obtain the gift of God with money! You have no part or portion in this matter, for your heart is not right before God. Therefore repent of this wickedness of yours, and pray to the Lord that, if possible, the intention of your heart may be forgiven you."

There is no record of Simon responding with a change of heart. There is no record of Simon repenting. There is no record that Simon ever understood how wrong his request was.

There is a record of a statue that was erected in Rome a few years later with the inscription: "Simon – the power of God"

"So, when they had solemnly testified and spoken the word of the Lord, they started back to Jerusalem and were preaching the gospel to many villages of the Samaritans."

Discussion Questions

1. Is every Christian required to share their faith with others that they meet in everyday activities?
2. Do Christians need to be trained to share their faith, or do they need to consider the best methods of sharing their faith?
3. What have you experienced in your walk with the Lord that others would be encouraged by hearing about it?
4. Have you experienced the Holy Spirit since you have believed?
5. Were there manifestations in the experience when you received the Holy Spirit?
6. How have you grown in your experience with God from hearing the word of God preached?
7. What is your routine in reading God's word, and how have you applied God's word to your conversations with others?

To hear this message again, go to gracepointny.org/media or follow our podcast.