**God’s Providence (God’s Plan in Action)**

Acts 8:4-40

Matthew Lyle, Crossroads International Church

Background:

* Church was experiencing external and internal opposition.
* Latest round of persecution led by Saul

Characters in First Story (Acts 8:4–24)

* Philip: one of seven men chosen in Acts 6
* Simon the Magician: A prominent Samaritan sorcerer who wanted to pay to control the Holy Spirit.
* Samaritan Believers: Samaritans who heard Philip’s message about the Good News of Christ, believed, and were baptized.
* Peter and John: Apostles of Jesus, came to verify the Samaritans were true believers

Characters in Second Story (Acts 8:26-40)

* Philip: one of seven men chosen in Acts 6
* Ethiopian Eunuch: A prominent official who was seeking after God

Questions:

Why did the Samaritans not receive the Holy Spirit when they believed and were baptized?

What can we learn from Simon?

Who can be baptized?

How can I participate in God’s plan?