

COOPERATION principle from Samaria . . .

4. Informed churches pray God’s power into God’s mission.

“So, being sent on their way by the church, they passed through Phoenicia and Samaria, describing the conversion of the Gentiles; and they caused great joy to all the brethren” (Acts 15:3, NKJV).

CHALLENGES principle from Samaria . . .

5. Negative cultural influences require both scriptural proclamation and spiritual confrontation.

“A man named Simon had previously practiced sorcery in that city and astounded the Samaritan people, while claiming to be somebody great. They all paid attention to him, from the least of them to the greatest, and they said, ‘This man is called the Great Power of God!’ They were attentive to him because he had astounded them with his sorceries for a long time. But when they believed Philip, as he proclaimed the good news about the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, both men and women were baptized. Then even Simon himself believed. And after he was baptized, he went around constantly with Philip and was astounded as he observed the signs and great miracles that were being performed” (Acts 8:9-13, HCSB).

Ask yourself . . .

- What can I do to help take the gospel to my Samaria?
- Where in our Samaria might God lead our church?

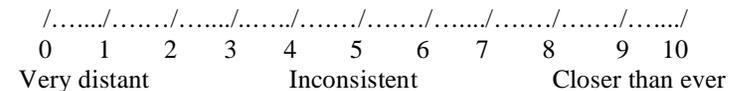
The Lost Continent

. . . Our Church’s Samaria

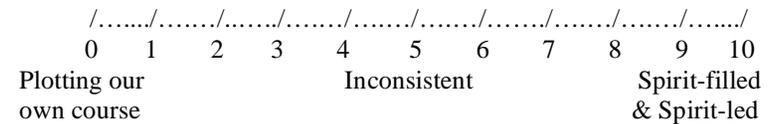
Part 3 of 6 in the series “The Acts 1:8 Challenge”

Another quick self-assessment:

On a scale from 1 to 10, how close is your own personal relationship with Jesus Christ right now?



On a scale from 1 to 10, how responsive is our church to the leadership of the Holy Spirit?



• Jesus’ last words on earth are His first priority for His followers today.

“It is not for you to know times or periods that the Father has set by His own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be My witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth” (Acts 1:7-8, HCSB).

The Four “Mission Fields” of Jesus’ Acts 1:8 Challenge:

1. The Ends of the Earth
2. Samaria
3. Judea
4. Jerusalem

• **The presence and power of the Holy Spirit are essential to Christian living and the church's mission.**

“I assure you: The one who believes in Me will also do the works that I do. And he will do even greater works than these, because I am going to the Father” (John 14:12, HCSB).

Five “Big Ideas” about God’s Mission through the church:

1. Calling
2. Cultures
3. Church Planting
4. Cooperation
5. Challenges

Our Church’s Mission in Samaria

“Now he [Jesus] had to go through Samaria” (John 4:4, NIV).

“Then the woman of Samaria said to Him, ‘How is it that You, being a Jew, ask a drink from me, a Samaritan woman?’ For Jews have no dealings with Samaritans. Jesus answered and said to her, ‘If you knew the gift of God, and who it is who says to you, “Give Me a drink,” you would have asked Him, and He would have given you living water’” (John 4:9-10, NKJV).

For today’s church, as for the early church, Samaria is “a close-by place that we rarely visit,” and Samaritans are “those who live relatively near us, but who are not like us.”

CALLING principle from Samaria . . .

1. God calls Christians to personalize the gospel for the diverse peoples in and near their homeland.

“So those who were scattered went on their way proclaiming the message of good news. Philip went down to a city in Samaria and preached the Messiah to them. The crowds paid attention with one mind to what Philip said, as they heard and saw the signs he was performing. For unclean spirits, crying

out with a loud voice, came out of many who were possessed, and many who were paralyzed and lame were healed. So there was great joy in that city” (Acts 8:4-8, HCSB).

CULTURES principle from Samaria . . .

2. Penetrating a diverse continent or nation with the gospel requires a loving understanding of its people and history.

“So He came to a city of Samaria which is called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob gave to his son Joseph. Now Jacob’s well was there. Jesus therefore, being wearied from His journey, sat thus by the well. It was about the sixth hour. A woman of Samaria came to draw water. Jesus said to her, ‘Give Me a drink.’ For His disciples had gone away into the city to buy food. Then the woman of Samaria said to Him, ‘How is it that You, being a Jew, ask a drink from me, a Samaritan woman?’ For Jews have no dealings with Samaritans” (John 4:5-9, NKJV).

CHURCH PLANTING principle from Samaria . . .

3. The unchanging gospel adapts to diverse cultures and generations through new leaders and new methods in new churches.

“Philip went down to a city in Samaria and preached the Messiah to them” (Acts 8:5, HCSB).

“Then, after they had testified and spoken the message of the Lord, they traveled back to Jerusalem, evangelizing many villages of the Samaritans” (Acts 8:25, HCSB).

“Then the churches throughout all Judea, Galilee, and Samaria had peace and were edified. And walking in the fear of the Lord and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit, they were multiplied” (Acts 9:31, NKJV).