

Acts
Keeping the Main Thing the Main Thing
Acts 8:4-25

- I. Authentic Message...Authentic Faith (4-8, 25)
 - A. Directed to Others
 - B. Centered on Jesus Christ
 - C. Changed Lives
- II. Counterfeit Message...Counterfeit Faith (9-24)
 - A. Gaining from Others
 - B. Centered on Self
 - C. No Sustained Change
- III. Consequences
 - A. Authentic
 - 1. Rejoicing (8)
 - 2. Indwelling and Empowerment of the Holy Spirit (15-17)
 - B. Counterfeit
 - 1. Exposure (20-21)
 - 2. Eternal Damnation (22-24)
- IV. Walking in Obedience
 - A. Receive
 - B. Respond

Go Forward

The two keywords for walking in obedience are pretty simple: Receive and Respond. If you believe you're a Christian already, you may be tempted to blow past the first one in order to get going on the second one. Slow down.....Take a long look at your life.....Ask yourself whether your life is marked by the presence of the Holy Spirit. Are you sensitive to sin in your life? Is the arc of your life one of progressive growth and bearing of spiritual fruit? Invest whatever time you need to pray about and ponder these questions, and then make your first response a response of faith in Jesus Christ (see Ephesians 2:8-9). All of that is about what God has done...not any of it is about what you are doing in your own power.

From there, ask God to guide you into a walk of obedience. As you submit to the Holy Spirit and walk in His power, you will increasingly steer clear of sin and His fruit will come forth in greater measure in your life (see Galatians 5:16-26).