The Samaritan Power Struggle
Acts 8:5-25

Introduction:
A. The Samaritan story tells of a great step forward in spreading gospel to the world.
1. Ordered by the Lord. (Acts 1:8).
B. The Samaritan story tells of a great struggle between two powerful forces at work anywhere the gospel goes.

Discussion:
I. Powerful Forces for Evil.
A. The power of superstition and error. (vv. 9-11).
B. The power of temptation.
1. To distort one’s thinking. (vs. 18-20).
2. To reclaim one for Satan. (vs. 13, 21-24).

II. Powerful Forces for Good.
A. The power of the apostolic connection.
1. To testify or witness. (v. 25; Cf. Acts 1:21-22; 26:16). - We are not witnesses.
2. To receive revelation (Eph. 3:5)
3. To confirm revelation with real miracles (2 Cor. 12:11-12; cf. Heb. 2:3-5).
   c. Early church guided by inspired men, we are guided by inspired book (cf. 1 Cor. 13:10)
B. The power of the apostolic message.
1. Preached one comprehensive message.
   a. “The word” (v. 4; cf. 2 Tim. 4:2-4; 1 Pet. 1:23-25).
   b. “Christ” (v.5) including things to be heeded. (v.6).
   c. “Things concerning kingdom” (v. 12; Mt. 16:18-20).
   f. Can’t preach one without other.
2. Produced great results.
   a. Overcame superstition, error and temptation.
   c. Produced repentance (Simon and Samaritans changed).
   d. Produced baptism in name of Jesus. (v. 12,13,16) - Not H.S. baptism.
   e. Recovered a backslider. (vs. 22-24).

Conclusion:
A. Let us use Gospel’s power to overcome.
B. Let us not covet the power of the apostles.