

**Study Guide “Simon Magus” by Pastor Jason Baugh, from
7-15-2018**

Key Scriptures: “.....And the multitudes with one accord heeded the things spoken by Philip, hearing and seeing the miracles which he did.But there was a certain man called Simon, who previously practiced sorcery in the city.....claiming that he was someone great, to whom they all gave heed, saying, ‘This man is the great power of God’..... And they heeded him because he had astonished them with his sorceries for a long time..... And when Simon saw that through the laying on of the apostles' hands the Holy Spirit was given, he offered them money..... But Peter said to him, ‘Your money perish with you, because you thought that the gift of God could be purchased with money! You have neither part nor portion in this matter, for your heart is not right in the sight of God.’” (Acts 6:4-21)

- Matthew 24:23-25 “Then if anyone says to you, 'Look, here is the Christ!' or 'There!' do not believe it. For false christs and false prophets will rise and show great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect. See, I have told you beforehand.”
- 2 Corinthians 11:13-15 “For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into apostles of Christ. And no wonder! For Satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light. Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also transform themselves into ministers of righteousness, whose end will be according to their works.”

Start Talking:

- Have you ever experienced something that turned out to be good which was originally intended for bad? Share.
- What are some distractions or illusions that Satan uses today to keep people from knowing and following God?
- When you heard Pastor Jason say, “Do not underestimate the power of the devil”, why do you not have to be engulfed in fear? Explain.

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- How are fornication, adultery, and homosexuality counterfeits of what God intended for sexual intimacy among humans? Discuss each separately.

Start Thinking:

- Fifty years ago, Beatle John Lennon said, “Christianity will go. It will vanish and shrink. I know I’m right and I will be proven right. We’re more popular than Jesus.” In Matthew 16:18, Jesus said, “I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.” Think about ordinary people living today. Which statement do you think most people believe? Discuss.
- Most Christians are eagerly awaiting the return of Jesus. Matthew 24:23 reads, “Then if anyone says to you, ‘Look, here is the Christ!’ or ‘There!’ do not believe it.” If someone appears to be Christ, does great miracles, and even claims to be Christ in His return, do you think that some Christians will believe them? Why? Why not?

Start Sharing:

- Matthew 24:24 reads, “For false christs and false prophets will rise and show great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect.” Based on this verse, is it possible for the elect to be deceived? Who are the elect?
- Pastor Jason said, “The devil always provides a counterfeit for the things of God.” Can you think of some examples to this? Share and discuss.
- Pride says, “I know better than God.” What are some examples? Share.

Start Praying: “Lord, help us to recognize pride within ourselves. Give us the strength and determination to rid it from our thoughts, feelings, and intentions. In the Name of Jesus. Amen”

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Start Doing:

- Discuss the positive and negative meanings of the word “pride.” Can the positive sometimes lead to the negative? Discuss.
- 2 Corinthians 11:14 says, “For Satan himself appears as an angel of light.” Can you think of a behavior, philosophy, or movement that evokes sympathy or just appears to be good, but is contrary to God and His Word?
- How hard is it for you to be patient while God answers your prayers in His timing and for His purposes? Are you willing to practice patience in this fast-paced culture? What needs to change for you to obey God when He says, “Be still, and know that I am God?” (Psalm 46:10)