

Simon the Sorcerer Sins By Offering to “BUY” the Gift of the Holy Spirit (Acts 8:18-24)



- ✧ Something happened that caught **Simon's attention** (v.18a).
- ✧ So **Simon makes an offer** – for power, influence & prestige (vv.18b-19).
- ✧ **Simon Peter** sternly & severely rebukes **Simon the Sorcerer** (vv.20-23).
- ✧ Simon pleads for apostolic prayer (v.24).
 - ↳ “Pray to the Lord for me, that none of the things which you have spoken may come upon me.”
 - ↳ The Bible is silent after that and never again mentions Simon.
- ✧ Lessons #4 – The Line Between Sincerity & Blasphemy Is Not One You Want To Cross!



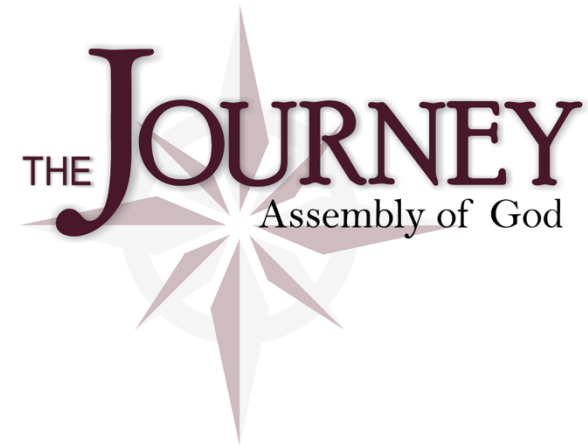
The Mission of Believers & The Church Is To Testify & Proclaim To the World The Word of the Lord!

“So when they had testified and preached the word of the Lord, they returned to Jerusalem, preaching the gospel in many villages of the Samaritans.” (v.25)



✧ MY NEXT STEPS TODAY...

- ☐ **Examine My Own Heart** ~ Are there things I'm being held captive by? (Bitterness, Secret Sins, Adultery, Sexual Impurity, A Phony Spirit...)
- ☐ **Confess To God My Sins** ~ In every area of my life and seek forgiveness.
- ☐ **Make a Faith Decision** ~ Prayerfully place my **faith** in Jesus Christ.
- ☐ **Rid My Life of Bad Influences** ~ Cleanse my heart and life from those things that tend to pull me back to sinful ways. (Certain Movies, Books, Social Media Sites, Friends, Places I Go, Thoughts I Think...)
- ☐ **Testify To The Gospel** ~ Open my mouth and share with others the life story of Jesus [The Gospel] and the changes He has made in my heart!



MESSAGE GUIDE

Speaker: Pastor Mark Geer
Sunday: October 12, 2025



Message Guide

Date: October 12, 2025

Speaker: Pastor Mark Geer

Today's Message:

SERIES: THE ACTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

A Study of the Early Church With Contemporary Application

*"The Sorcerer & The Holy Spirit – The Careful Distinction
Between Sincerity & Blasphemy"*

Text: Acts 8:1-25

"The Sorcerer & The Holy Spirit"

Text: Acts 8:1-25 – The Story of Simon the Sorcerer

- ✧ This is no Disney movie...
- ✧ Luke records these events as a witness to the miracle working power of the Spirit in and through the Apostles & the Deacons.



The Context & Spiritual Climate of Acts 8 (Acts 8:1-8)

- ✧ Context & Climate: Persecution Breaks Out Against the Church
- ✧ Setting: The Focus is on Samaria
 - ↳ Qualifications (Acts 6:3)
 - ↳ Dedication to the Great Commission (Mark 16:15-18; Acts 1:8; 8:1-40; 21:8)
- ✧ Lessons #1 – The Gospel is for Everyone!
 - ↳ Acts 8:12-13



The Sorcerer Who Deceived A Nation (Acts 8:9-11)

- ✧ There was a certain man called **Simon**, who previously practiced **sorcery** ["magic" / "dark arts"] (v.9).
- ✧ He claimed to be someone great... the people said, **"This man is the great power of God"** (v.10).
- ✧ Such sorcery was forbidden by God (Deuteronomy 18:10-12).
- ✧ Philip the Evangelist's preaching was Gospel centered!
 - ↳ The focus of his preaching was on Jesus Christ.
 - ↳ The impact of his preaching was convincing (See John 16:8).
 - ↳ The results of his preaching were remarkable! (v.12)
- ★ **Even Simon the sorcerer believed! (v.13)**
- ✧ Lessons #2 – Spiritual Arrogance is Blasphemy!
 - ↳ It was the sin of Lucifer (Isaiah 134:12-15).
 - ↳ It rises from a heart of pride – and unavoidably, out of the abundance of the heat the mouth s peaks (Matt. 12:34; Luke 6:45).

The Apostles Pray For The Samaritans To Receive The Baptism in the Holy Spirit (Acts 8:14-17)

- ✧ The Apostles – Peter & John, came down to Samaria, and prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit (v.14-15).
- ✧ And God faithfully poured out His Spirit once again (v.17)
- ✧ Lessons #3 – God Honors His Promises!
 - ↳ Acts 1:4-5; Mark 16:17



DISCUSSION GUIDE

For The Week of October 12 – 18, 2025

SERIES: THE ACTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

A Study of the Early Church With Contemporary Application

*"The Sorcerer & The Holy Spirit – The Careful Distinction
Between Sincerity & Blasphemy"*

Acts 8:1-25

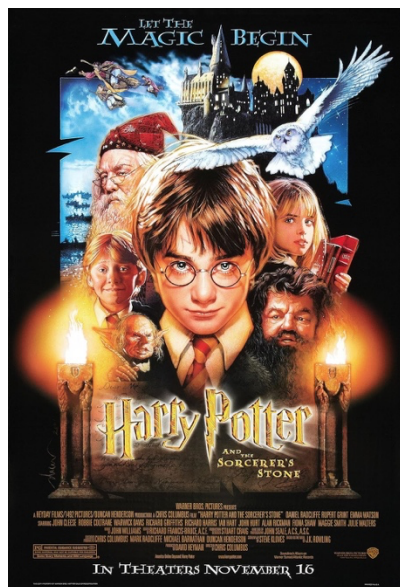
"The Sorcerer & The Holy Spirit"

Text: Acts 8:1-25 – The Story of Simon the Sorcerer

- 1) Are you a movie addict who loves epic fantasies and trilogies like "The Lord of the Rings" or films like "Harry Potter & the Sorcerer's Stone"?
- 2) What stood out to you or surprised you in the story about Simon the Sorcerer that you hadn't noticed before?

The Context & Spiritual Climate of Acts 8

- 1) What are your thoughts about Philip the Evangelist regarding his character and dedication to the Great Commission? (Read Acts 8:4-8; 13, 26-40; 21:8).
- 2) Do you know anyone like him today?



The Sorcerer Who Deceived A Nation (Acts 8:9-13)

- 1) Have you ever been involved in or impacted by sorcery, witchcraft, or things related to the occult? (This is a delicate subject, so only share as you feel the freedom to do so.) 😊
- 2) How serious do you think God feels about involvement in games, activities, movies and/or events that involve such influences (Ouija boards, Tarot cards, Video Games, etc.)?



✧ Read Deuteronomy 18:10-12 and 1 Corinthians 10:20-24.

- 3) What's your thought on Simon the Sorcerer's conversion? Do you think it was authentic and sincere? (Re-read Acts 8:12-13)

The Apostles Pray For The Samaritans To Receive The Baptism in the Holy Spirit (Acts 8:14-17)

- ✧ How did Peter & John's visit to Samaria play a significant role in the exposure of Simon the Sorcerer's struggle with bitterness and sin? (Look again at Acts 8:14-15, 17-23)

Simon the Sorcerer Sins By Offering to "BUY" the Gift of the Holy Spirit (Acts 8:18-24)



- 1) What do you think it was about the Baptism in the Holy Spirit that got Simon the Sorcerer so giddy and willing to pay money for this power? (See Acts 8:18-19)
- 2) After Peter's rebuke of Simon's offer, do you think Simon repented of his wickedness? (See Acts 8:20-24)
 - ✧ This will be more conjecture and supposition on our parts since the Bible doesn't specifically tell us, but it can provide some helpful dialogue and evaluation of the important distinction between sincerity and blasphemy.

The Mission of Believers & The Church Is To Testify & Proclaim To the World The Word of the Lord!

How do you think we are doing on this mission?