Acts 8:14-24

The Pressures of Counterfeit Christianity

- **Counterfeit Christianity Has…**
- **1. External Identification**
  - **Acts 8:16**, “For He had not yet fallen upon any of them; they had **simply been baptized in the name** of the Lord Jesus.”
  - **2 Timothy 2:1-5**, “In the last days difficult times will come. For men will be… **holding a form of godliness**, although they have denied its power.”
- **2. External Intrigue**
  - **Acts 8:19**, “**Give this authority to me** as well, so that everyone on whom I lay my hands may receive the Holy Spirit.”
  - **John 6:26**, “Truly, truly, I say to you, you seek Me, not because you saw signs, but **because you ate** of the loaves **and were filled**.”
  - **Matthew 7:22-23**, “Many will say to Me, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not **in Your name**…’ Then I will declare to them, ‘**I never knew you**.’"
- **But Does Not Have..**
- **3. Internal Reception**
  - **Acts 8:21**, “You have no part or portion in this matter (teaching), for **your heart is not right** before God.”
  - **James 1:21**, “Putting aside all filthiness and all that remains of wickedness, in humility **receive the word implanted**, which is able to save your souls.”
  - **Isaiah 29:13**, “This people draw near with their words and honor Me with their lip service, **but they remove their hearts** far from me.”
- **4. Internal Repentance**
  - **Acts 8:22-23**, “Therefore **repent** of this wickedness of yours, **and pray** the Lord that, if possible, the intention of your heart may be forgiven you. For I see that **you are in** the gall of bitterness and **in the bondage of iniquity**.”

- **5. Internal Resolution**
  - **Acts 8:24a**, “Pray to the Lord for me **yourselves**…”
  - **James 4:7-10**, “**Submit** to God. **Resist** the devil… **Draw near to God** and He will draw near to you. **Cleanse your hands**, you sinners; and **purify your hearts**, you double-minded. **Be miserable and mourn and weep**…**Humble yourselves** in the presence of the Lord, and He will exalt you.”
- **6. Internal Remorse**
  - **Acts 8:24b**, “…so that nothing of what you have said **may come upon me**.”
  - **2 Corinthians 7:10**, “The sorrow that is according to the will of God produces a **repentance without regret**, leading to salvation, but the sorrow of the world produces death.”
  - **Galatians 2:20**, “**I have been crucified with Christ**; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me.”
  - **Galatians 5:24**, “Those who belong to Christ Jesus **have crucified the flesh** with its passions and desires.”
  - **On a scale of fake to forgiven, how real is my faith?**