

ACTS OF GOD

Acts 8:9-25

**Let's Not Think That God
Can Be Bribed**

*Three reminders of the fact that true satisfaction
and eternal hope only come through faith in Jesus*

ACTS OF GOD

Acts 8:9-25

⁹ But there was a man named Simon, who had previously practiced magic in the city and amazed the people of Samaria, saying that he himself was somebody great. ¹⁰ They all paid attention to him, from the least to the greatest, saying, “This man is the power of God that is called Great.” ¹¹ And they paid attention to him because for a long time he had amazed them with his magic. ¹² But when they believed Philip as he preached good news about the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women.

ACTS OF GOD

Acts 8:9-25

¹³ Even Simon himself believed, and after being baptized he continued with Philip. And seeing signs and great miracles performed, he was amazed. ¹⁴ Now when the apostles at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent to them Peter and John, ¹⁵ who came down and prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit, ¹⁶ for he had not yet fallen on any of them, but they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. ¹⁷ Then they laid their hands on them and they received the Holy Spirit.

ACTS OF GOD

Acts 8:9-25

¹⁸ Now when Simon saw that the Spirit was given through the laying on of the apostles' hands, he offered them money, ¹⁹ saying, "Give me this power also, so that anyone on whom I lay my hands may receive the Holy Spirit." ²⁰ But Peter said to him, "May your silver perish with you, because you thought you could obtain the gift of God with money! ²¹ You have neither part nor lot in this matter, for your heart is not right before God.

ACTS OF GOD

Acts 8:9-25

²² Repent, therefore, of this wickedness of yours, and pray to the Lord that, if possible, the intent of your heart may be forgiven you ²³ For I see that you are in the gall of bitterness and in the bond of iniquity.” ²⁴ And Simon answered, “Pray for me to the Lord, that nothing of what you have said may come upon me.” ²⁵ Now when they had testified and spoken the word of the Lord, they returned to Jerusalem, preaching the gospel to many villages of the Samaritans.

1. When you're addicted to the attention and affirmation of people, you'll sell out your faith for your next fix. (v. 9-13, 18-19)

- A. If you think too much of yourself, you'll deceive yourself and try to convince others into giving you more credit than is due.
- B. Simon so wanted the attention and praise of others that he was willing to sell out his faith for it.

ACTS OF GOD

Acts 8:9-25

2. God freely offers you His attention and affirmation through faith in Jesus, but you cannot buy it or earn it. (v. 14-17, 20-23)

- A. God is not honored by our offers to earn or purchase His love and grace.
- B. God is only honored when we offer ourselves in humble faith.
- C. When we come to Jesus in faith, we find the fix we've been looking for.

ACTS OF GOD

Acts 8:9-25

3. The question of Simon's eternal fate was left unanswered. Make sure there's no question about yours. (v. 24-25)

- A. Siman's faith was highly questionable because it was seemingly in the miracles done and not the God behind them.
- B. As long as a person believes that anything else besides or added to Jesus will save them, then they cannot be saved.
- C. The Bible doesn't ever tell us whether Simon truly repented and whether he was truly saved, but you don't have to wonder about your salvation.

ACTS OF GOD

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