



BASED ON ACTS 8:9-24

# SIMON THE SORCERER



A SIMON  
CHOOSE YOUR OWN ADVENTURE  
FOR AGES 11-14

# How to Use This Book

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Welcome to an adventure where YOU become Simon, a famous magician who comes face to face with the true power of God.

## **How it works:**

- Start at Section 1.
- Read each section carefully.
- At the end of each section, choose what YOU would do.
- Follow the directions to the next section number.
- Keep going until you reach an ending.

Some paths lead to pride and isolation, others to destructive jealousy, and others to true repentance and humility that open the door to grace.

## **Tips:**

- You can read this alone or as a group (vote on choices together).
- Try different paths to see how the story changes.
- Pay attention to your motivations: are you seeking God for what He can give you or for who He is?
- Keep your Bible open to Acts 8:9–24 while you read.

**Warning:** This story deals with pride, manipulation, and fake spirituality. It shows that God sees the motivations of the heart.

**Key idea:** Simon tried to buy God's gift with money, revealing a heart that wanted power more than relationship—but Peter still offered him a chance to repent.

# The Great Simon

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## Section 1

You are Simon. In Samaria, you are a celebrity. For years you've practiced magic and amazed the crowds with your feats.

People say, "*This man is the power of God, known as the Great Power!*" From the least to the greatest, everyone follows you, captivated by your abilities. You love this attention. The respect. The admiration. The power you hold over people. You are someone important.

Then one day, everything changes.

A man named Philip comes to town. He preaches about Jesus Christ and the kingdom of God. He heals the paralyzed. Evil spirits come out of possessed people with loud shrieks.

And the worst part: your audience disappears. The crowds that used to follow you now press in around Philip. People are being baptized by the dozens. You watch from a distance. Your heart is pounding. Your reputation is on the line. Your status is under threat.

## What do you do?

- If you decide to pull back and wait for “this craze” to blow over, hoping people will come back to you, go to **Section 2**.
- If jealousy takes over and you decide to attack Philip publicly to protect your reputation, go to **Section 3**.
- If you decide to blend into the crowd and get baptized too, go to **Section 4**.

# Protecting your reputation

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## Section 2

You vanish from the public eye. “*Philip will leave eventually,*” you tell yourself. “This is just a passing fad. People will come back to me once the novelty wears off.”

You stay home, avoiding the crowds. You refuse to go and see what Philip is actually doing.

Weeks pass. Philip stays. Conversions continue. The church grows. And you? People forget you.

Your name becomes a footnote in Samaria’s story. “Remember Simon the magician? Whatever happened to him?”

You protected your pride by refusing to lower yourself enough to explore this new movement. But in guarding your ego, you lost the chance to encounter the true God.

## **END 1 – “Pride that shut you in”**

- When you refuse to explore what God is doing because it threatens your status or reputation, you choose pride over growth—and you end up alone with your wounded ego.

# The public attack

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## Section 3

You have no intention of staying quiet. Philip is stealing your spotlight, and you won't let that go.

You start speaking against him. *“He’s a fraud!”* you shout in the public square. *“His ‘miracles’ are just well-staged tricks. Don’t let yourselves be fooled!”*

You try to discredit his healings. You question his motives. You spread rumors.

But people see right through you. They see your jealousy. They see a desperate man trying to claw back his lost audience.

While you rant and accuse, Philip calmly keeps preaching, healing, and serving. His gentleness and authenticity stand in stark contrast to your rage.

Your reputation collapses. The few people who still admired you turn away in disgust. You become known not as a great magician but as a jealous, bitter man.

### **END 2 – “Jealousy that wrecked you”**

- Attacking God’s work out of fear of losing your place reveals a heart that loves power and glory more than truth. Jealousy destroys not only your reputation but also your soul.

# Baptism (but why?)

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## Section 4

You decide to join the movement. *“If you can’t beat them, join them,”* you think.

You step forward for baptism. Philip looks you in the eyes, searching for sincerity. You nod. *“I believe,”* you say.

He baptizes you. You come up out of the water. The church welcomes you in.

But in your heart, one question won’t go away: *“Is this real faith... or just a strategy to stay relevant?”*

You start following Philip everywhere. You watch everything he does. You study his methods. You are fascinated by the miracles.

Then Peter and John arrive from Jerusalem. They have come to pray for the new believers to receive the Holy Spirit.

You watch them lay hands on people. And you see it: something powerful is happening. People speak in tongues. They prophesy. Their faces shine. A tangible presence fills the room.

Your heart races—not with spiritual awe, but with strategic excitement.

*“If I had THAT power...” you think. “I could become the greatest again. Imagine: Simon, the one who gives the Holy Spirit! The crowds would come back. I’d be even more famous than before!”*

### **What do you do?**

- If you pull out your money bag and offer Peter and John cash to buy this power, go to **Section 5**.
- If you humbly approach Peter and ask him to pray for you to receive the Holy Spirit too, go to **Section 6**.
- If you decide to watch quietly and think before acting, go to **Section 7**.

# The offer of money

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## Section 5

You can't resist. You pull out your money bag, full of silver coins you've earned over the years through your magic.

You walk up to Peter and John. *"Give me this power too,"* you say, holding out the money, *"so that everyone on whom I lay my hands may receive the Holy Spirit."*

A cold silence falls.

Peter turns to you. His gaze cuts straight through you. Then he speaks—and his words hit like thunder:

*"May your money perish with you, because you thought you could buy the gift of God with money! You have no part or share in this ministry, because your heart is not right before God. Repent of this wickedness and pray to the Lord, in the hope that he may forgive you for having such a thought in your heart. For I see that you are full of bitterness and captive to sin."*

His words echo through the room. Everyone is staring at you. Shame burns inside you. Humiliation. Anger, too.

## How do you respond?

- If you defend yourself by saying, “I was only trying to help! I just wanted to support the ministry!”, go to **Section 8**.
- If Peter’s words break something in you and you truly repent, go to **Section 9**.
- If you are scared of Peter’s warning and ask him to pray for you (but without really wanting to change), go to **Section 10**.

# The humble request

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## Section 6

You come up to Peter with respect. Not with money. Not with schemes. Just an honest request.

*“Peter,” you say quietly, “would you pray for me to receive the Holy Spirit too? I want to know what these people have experienced.”*

Peter watches you closely. This time he sees something different in your eyes.

*He smiles gently. “Simon, God gives His Spirit freely to those who seek Him with a sincere heart. This isn’t a power you acquire to impress others. It’s a relationship to grow in with the Father.”*

*He puts a hand on your shoulder. “Keep seeking God for who He is, not for what He can give you. And you will find Him.”*

In the weeks that follow, something in you shifts. You start to realize that true power doesn’t come from impressing people but from God’s presence changing you from the inside out.

### **END 3 – “The heart that understood”**

- When you seek God for Himself and not for what He can do for you or how He can elevate you, you discover true power: God’s presence transforming you from within.

# Silent observation

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## Section 7

You step back. You watch.

You see Peter and John serving people. You notice something: they aren't seeking attention. They aren't asking for money. They don't brag about their power.

They keep pointing to Jesus. *"This isn't us,"* they say again and again. *"It's Him."*

You start seeing the contrast with your own life. For years you've done everything so people would look at you. So they would say, "Simon is great!"

But these men do the opposite. They shrink so that Christ can be seen as greater.

A thought begins to grow in your heart: *"What if real power doesn't come from impressing people, but from serving God in humility?"*

You stay quiet. You keep watching. You begin to pray—not to get power, but to understand who God really is. Slowly, something inside you starts to change.

## **END 4 – “The wisdom of silence”**

- Sometimes quietly watching and letting God work on your heart is more powerful than chasing spectacular experiences. Humble learning is better than demanding greatness.

# Self-defence

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## Section 8

Peter's words sting. But instead of taking them to heart, you put your guard up.

*"I wasn't trying to buy anything!"* you protest. *"I was just trying to support the ministry! I wanted to help spread this gift to more people! You misunderstood me!"*

Peter slowly shakes his head. *"Simon, you still don't see it. This is not a business transaction. This isn't a power you can acquire, package, and resell. It's the Holy Spirit of God—a person, not a product."*

*"Your heart is still reaching for greatness, not holiness. You still want control instead of surrender."*

He looks at you sadly. *"Until you see that, you'll remain bound."*

Peter walks away. John follows. You're left standing there, alone, clinging to your excuses and your intact pride.

History will remember you—but not the way you hoped. Your name even becomes a word: “*simony*,” the act of buying or selling sacred things.

## **END 5 – “Defensive pride”**

- Justifying yourself instead of repenting slams the door on transformation. Defensive pride keeps you trapped in yourself and shuts you off from the grace God freely offers.

# Sincere repentance

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## Section 9

Peter's words cut you like a sword. And instead of defending yourself, something breaks inside.

You fall to your knees. Tears start to flow.

“Peter, you're right,” you say, your voice shaking. *“My heart was chasing power, not God. I treated the Holy Spirit like a product to buy. I wanted to use God for my own glory instead of seeking Him for who He is.”*

*“Forgive me. Pray for me. I don't want to live like this anymore.”*

For the first time in years, you are completely honest. The tears are not manipulation—they come from a heart finally seeing its own corruption.

Peter places his hand on your shoulder. His eyes, so stern a moment ago, soften.

*“Simon, God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble. If you stay in this humility, if you keep seeking God for who He is and not for what He can give you, you will find Him. He never turns away a humble, broken heart.”*

In the months that follow, you learn to serve without seeking applause. To pray without demanding dramatic signs. To love God simply because He is worthy of love.

## **END 6 – “The broken and renewed heart”**

- True repentance shatters pride and opens the door to grace. God never rejects a humble, contrite heart that sees its sin and turns to Him.

# Prayer driven by fear

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## Section 10

Peter's words terrify you. *"May your money perish with you"* keeps ringing in your ears. *"Bitter poison," "slave to sin," "your heart is not right."*

You panic. You don't want judgment. You don't want to perish.

*"Pray for me,"* you cry, *"so that nothing you've said will happen to me!"*

Peter looks at you for a long moment. Then he sighs.

*"Simon, you're afraid of judgment, but you're not seeking transformation. You want me to pray away the consequences, but you don't want your heart to change."*

*"Repentance isn't just about avoiding punishment. It's turning completely away from sin and turning toward God."*

Peter walks away. You never truly understood.

History remembers you as the man who tried to buy the Holy Spirit—and who, even after being confronted, only tried to escape the consequences instead of letting his heart be changed.

### **END 7 – “Fear without change”**

- Trying to dodge the consequences of sin without wanting your heart to change is not repentance—it’s risk management. God doesn’t just want to keep you out of judgment; He wants to transform who you are.

# All the Endings

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Check them off, then read the wisdom that goes with each one.

- **END 1 – “Pride that shut you in”**
  - When you refuse to explore what God is doing because it threatens your status, you choose pride over growth and end up cut off from God’s work.
- **END 2 – “Jealousy that wrecked you”**
  - Attacking what God is doing because it threatens your position reveals a heart that loves power more than truth; jealousy ruins not just your reputation but your soul.
- **END 3 – “The heart that understood”**
  - When you seek God for who He is rather than for what He can do for you, you find true power: His presence changing you from the inside.
- **END 4 – “The wisdom of silence”**
  - Sometimes quietly observing and letting God work in your heart is more powerful than chasing spectacular experiences; humble learning is better than demanding your way.

- **END 5 – “Defensive pride”**
  - Defending yourself instead of repenting shuts the door on transformation; defensive pride keeps you locked inside yourself and blocks you from receiving grace.
- **END 6 – “The broken and renewed heart”**
  - Real repentance breaks pride and opens the way to grace; God never rejects a humble, contrite heart that owns its sin and turns to Him.
- **END 7 – “Fear without change”**
  - Trying to avoid judgment without wanting your heart to change is not repentance—it’s risk management; God wants to transform who you are, not just keep you out of hell.

# Five Truths You Can Carry

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- **TRUTH 1: God’s gift is not for sale.**
  - Simon thought he could buy the Holy Spirit with money, showing a heart that saw God as a seller and spirituality as a transaction. But the Holy Spirit is not a product to be acquired—it’s a relationship with God to be cultivated. You cannot pay for grace; you can only receive it in humility.
- **TRUTH 2: Seeking God’s power for your own glory is idolatry dressed up as spirituality.**
  - Simon wanted the power to give the Holy Spirit not to serve others, but to become “the great Simon” again. When you chase God’s gifts to boost your own reputation instead of to glorify God and serve others, you turn spirituality into self-worship.
- **TRUTH 3: True repentance changes your direction, not just your excuses.**
  - Peter called Simon to repent—to a radical change of heart and direction. Self-justification (“I was just trying to help!”) keeps you in chains. Honest confession of sin and turning to God opens the door to real change. Repentance is not just saying “sorry”; it is choosing a different path.

- **TRUTH 4: God sees the motivations of the heart.**
  - Peter told Simon, “Your heart is not right before God.” You can fool people with spiritual words and religious actions, but God sees straight into your heart. He knows your real motives. You can’t act a part or manipulate Him. Authenticity matters more than appearances.
- **TRUTH 5: Humility opens doors that pride slams shut.**
  - Simon had two options when Peter confronted him: protect his ego or humble himself in repentance. Defensive pride closes the door to grace. But a humble heart—the one that says, “You’re right, I’m wrong, forgive me”—always finds God’s mercy. God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.

# Discussion Questions

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**Use these questions after going through at least one path:**

1. Which ending did you reach first, and what does it show about how you usually react when your ego feels threatened?
2. Simon wanted to buy spiritual power. What are some modern and subtle ways people try to “buy” God’s blessings or “make deals” with Him?
3. Compare END 2 (jealousy) and END 6 (repentance). Both involve a confrontation with Peter. What makes the reaction so different?
4. Peter said, “Your heart is not right before God.” How can you tell the difference between seeking God for what He can give vs. seeking Him for who He is?
5. Simon wanted the power without the relationship. Where do you see this same pattern today in Christian culture (chasing blessings/gifts from God without really seeking Him)?
6. END 5 shows Simon justifying himself instead of repenting. Why is it so hard to simply say, “You’re right, I’m wrong,” when we’re confronted with our sin?
7. What is the difference between “being afraid of the consequences of sin” (END 7) and “truly repenting of sin” (END 6)?

# What are YOUR “Simon moments”?

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Reflect on the areas where you might be tempted to treat God the way Simon did:

1. **In your prayers** (seeking God’s blessings more than God Himself):
2. **In your service** (serving for recognition instead of out of love for God):
3. **In your spirituality** (chasing spectacular experiences rather than a humble relationship):
4. **In your pride** (protecting your reputation instead of seeking truth):
5. **In your repentance** (justifying yourself instead of really changing):

## Now ask yourself:

- In which area is God inviting me to move from transaction to relationship, from pride to humility, from chasing power to seeking His presence?

# Prayer

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Lord God,

Thank You for the story of Simon the magician—for warning me about the danger of seeking Your power instead of Your presence, Your gifts instead of You.

Forgive me for the times I've treated my relationship with You like a transaction. For the times I've prayed mainly to get something instead of to know You. For the times I've served for recognition instead of love.

Break my pride. Show me where my heart is not right before You. Help me be honest about my real motives.

Give me the humility of Simon in END 6—a heart that can fall to its knees and say, “You're right. I repent. Change me.” Keep me from the defensive pride that justifies instead of repenting.

Teach me to seek You for who You are—Creator, Savior, loving Father—and not just for what You can give. May my heart find its joy in Your presence, not just in Your blessings.

In Jesus' name, Amen.



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Step into Simon the magician, a famous man confronted with the true power of God and forced to choose between pride and humility, between seeking power or seeking God's presence. Along the way, you'll face your real motivations: are you seeking God for who He is, or for what He can give you?

Inside, you'll:

- Step into one of the New Testament's most striking warning stories about false spiritual motives.
- Explore seven different endings that show the consequences of pride, jealousy, humility, and true repentance.
- Discover five key truths about God's gift, the motivations of the heart, and the humility that opens the door to grace.

**Scripture basis:**

Acts 8:9–24

**Recommended age:**

11–14

**“May your money perish with you, because you thought you could buy the gift of God with money!”**

Acts 8:20