

ACTS 8:9-25

Now for some time a man named Simon had practiced sorcery in the city and amazed all the people of Samaria. He boasted that he was someone great,¹⁰ and all the people, both high and low, gave him their attention and exclaimed, "This man is rightly called the Great Power of God."¹¹ They followed him because he had amazed them for a long time with his sorcery.¹² But when they believed Philip as he proclaimed the good news of the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women.¹³ Simon himself believed and was baptized. And he followed Philip everywhere, astonished by the great signs and miracles he saw.

¹⁴ When the apostles in Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to Samaria.¹⁵ When they arrived, they prayed for the new believers there that they might receive the Holy Spirit,¹⁶ because the Holy Spirit had not yet come on any of them; they had simply been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.¹⁷ Then Peter and John placed their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

¹⁸ When Simon saw that the Spirit was given at the laying on of the apostles' hands, he offered them money¹⁹ and said, "Give me also this ability so that everyone on whom I lay my hands may receive the Holy Spirit."

²⁰ Peter answered: "May your money perish with you, because you thought you could buy the gift of God with money!²¹ You have no part or share in this ministry, because your heart is not right before God.²² 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.²³ For I see that you are full of bitterness and captive to sin."

²⁴ Then Simon answered, "Pray to the Lord for me so that nothing you have said may happen to me."

²⁵ After they had further proclaimed the word of the Lord and testified about Jesus, Peter and John returned to Jerusalem, preaching the gospel in many Samaritan villages.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

| When you were growing up, who was your favorite superhero? Why do you think
| we are enamored by people with special powers or abilities?

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| Who was Simon the Sorcerer? What were his powers? What did others think
| of him?

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| What happened in Samaria when Philip came to preach the gospel? What
| happened to Simon the Sorcerer?

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| Why did Peter and John come to Samaria? What significant blessing did they give
| to the new believers? Why is the Holy Spirit so important in our lives?

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| How did Simon the Sorcerer commit sin in his thinking and actions regarding the
| power of the Holy Spirit? What did Peter say to rebuke him?

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| In your walk with Christ, when have you experienced the Holy Spirit working in and
| through you?

DAILY READINGS

1. 2 KINGS 5:1-27
2. ISAIAH 55:1-13
3. MATTHEW 7:15-29
4. MARK 10:17-31
5. GALATIANS 5:13-26
6. JAMES 4:1-17
7. ACTS 8:9-25