

Cases of Conversion

Simon A Christian Whose Heart Was Not Right Before God v2

Introduction

- In Simon the magician we see a wonderful account of one who had deceived people for years, become a child of God, receive forgiveness of his sins
- In Simon we also see how important it is as Christians to continue learning and following the Lord's Word even after we are baptized into Christ

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Introduction

- In Simon we see one who fell away from the Lord after once being in good standing with Him
- For those who claim a Christian cannot behave in such a way as to be lost after being saved, we must take note of Simon who disproves this error
- And finally, in Simon we see one who was willing to submit to God again that he might be forgiven and go forward

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Character of Simon

- Simon was a Samaritan
- Samaritans were partially Jewish, mixed with other peoples that had been brought into Israel from Assyrian territories
- Generally speaking, Samaritans were despised by many Jews

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Character of Simon

2Ki 17:22 The sons of Israel walked in all the sins of Jeroboam which he did; they did not depart from them

2Ki 17:23 until the LORD removed Israel from His sight, as He spoke through all His servants the prophets. So Israel was carried away into exile from their own land to Assyria until this day.

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Character of Simon

2Ki 17:24 The king of Assyria brought men from Babylon and from Cuthah and from Avva and from Hamath and Sephar-vaim, and settled them in the cities of Samaria in place of the sons of Israel. So they possessed Samaria and lived in its cities.

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Character of Simon

Joh 4:9 Therefore the Samaritan woman *said to Him, "How is it that You, being a Jew, ask me for a drink since I am a Samaritan woman?" (For Jews have no dealings with Samaritans.)

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Character of Simon

- Simon was a talented and famous magician in Samaria
- He had a great following among the people who were amazed by his deceptive magic arts
- They attributed his power to God
- He was lost in the pride of life, seeking to make himself great by deception

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Character of Simon

Act 8:9 Now there was a man named Simon, who formerly was practicing magic in the city and astonishing the people of Samaria, claiming to be someone great;
Act 8:10 and they all, from smallest to greatest, were giving attention to him, saying, "This man is what is called the Great Power of God."

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Character of Simon

Act 8:11 And they were giving him attention because he had for a long time astonished them with his magic arts.

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The gospel message Simon heard

- Because of persecution, Christians were scattered from Jerusalem
- But, they kept on preaching the gospel, including Philip, who went to Samaria
- The message includes preaching who Christ is, what He has done to save us, His authority over all and need for baptism for forgiveness of sins after believing in Jesus and repenting of sins

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The gospel message Simon heard

Act 8:3 But Saul began ravaging the church, entering house after house, and dragging off men and women, he would put them in prison.

Act 8:4 Therefore, those who had been scattered went about preaching the word.

Act 8:5 Philip went down to the city of Samaria and began proclaiming Christ to them.

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The gospel message Simon heard

Act 8:12 But when they believed Philip preaching the good news about the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were being baptized, men and women alike.

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Simon's response to the gospel

- After hearing the gospel and believing in Jesus as Lord, many responded by repenting and being baptized
- Even Simon's heart was touched by the message and he submitted and became a Christian
- Apparently, Simon, the great deceiver, recognized the true miracles of God that confirmed the message

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Simon's response to the gospel

Act 8:12 But when they believed Philip preaching the good news about the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were being baptized, men and women alike.

Act 8:13 Even Simon himself believed; and after being baptized, he continued on with Philip, and as he observed signs and great miracles taking place, he was constantly amazed.

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Simon's response to the gospel

Act 2:38 Peter *said* to them, "Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

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The Holy Spirit's role with Philip and the apostles

- Miracles were designed to confirm the Word of God
- Only the apostles were able to impart the ability to do miracles to others through the laying on of their hands
- Philip had received this power to do miracles from the apostles but could not transfer it to others

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The Holy Spirit's role with Philip and the apostles

Heb 2:3 how will we escape if we neglect so great a salvation? After it was at the first spoken through the Lord, it was confirmed to us by those who heard,

Heb 2:4 God also testifying with them, both by signs and wonders and by various miracles and by gifts of the Holy Spirit according to His own will.

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The Holy Spirit's role with Philip and the apostles

Act 8:6 The crowds with one accord were giving attention to what was said by Philip, as they heard and saw the signs which he was performing.

Act 8:7 For in the case of many who had unclean spirits, they were coming out of them shouting with a loud voice; and many who had been paralyzed and lame were healed.

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The Holy Spirit's role with Philip and the apostles

Act 8:14 Now when the apostles in Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent them Peter and John,

Act 8:15 who came down and prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit.

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The Holy Spirit's role with Philip and the apostles

Act 8:16 For He had not yet fallen upon any of them; they had simply been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.

Act 8:17 Then they *began* laying their hands on them, and they were receiving the Holy Spirit.

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Simon falls away from the Lord coveting the apostles' power of the Holy Spirit

- Although Simon continued with Philip, he soon came into conflict with the gospel
- Becoming a Christian does not prevent us from believing, feeling and acting in ways that are sinful
- Simon turned his heart away from God because he coveted the ability to impart the power to perform miracles

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Simon falls away from the Lord coveting the apostles' power of the Holy Spirit

- He offers the apostles money to receive this ability
- Peter makes it clear that because of his thinking, feelings and actions, his heart was not right before God
- Those who say a Christian can never be lost after being saved need to look again

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Simon falls away from the Lord coveting the apostles' power of the Holy Spirit

Act 8:18 Now when Simon saw that the Spirit was bestowed through the laying on of the apostles' hands, he offered them money, Act 8:19 saying, "Give this authority to me as well, so that everyone on whom I lay my hands may receive the Holy Spirit."

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Simon falls away from the Lord coveting the apostles' power of the Holy Spirit

Act 8:20 But Peter said to him, "May your silver perish with you, because you thought you could obtain the gift of God with money!

Act 8:21 "You have no part or portion in this matter, for your heart is not right before God.

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Simon is restored back to the Lord

- Some insist Simon was never a true Christian but just a pretender
- Peter does not agree with this
- He instructs Simon what all Christians must do to be restored back to the Lord after we sin
- We must repent, pray to God for mercy along with admitting our sins
- Simon also asked them to pray for him

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Simon is restored back to the Lord

Act 8:22 "Therefore repent of this wickedness of yours, and pray the Lord that, if possible, the intention of your heart may be forgiven you.

Act 8:23 "For I see that you are in the gall of bitterness and in the bondage of iniquity."

Act 8:24 But Simon answered and said, "Pray to the Lord for me yourselves, so that nothing of what you have said may come upon me."

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Simon is restored back to the Lord

1Jn 1:7 but if we walk in the Light as He Himself is in the Light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin.

1Jn 1:8 If we say that we have no sin, we are deceiving ourselves and the truth is not in us.

1Jn 1:9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

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Simon is restored back to the Lord

Jas 5:16 Therefore, confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another so that you may be healed. The effective prayer of a righteous man can accomplish much.

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