

Some Things Simon Saw

Introduction:

- A. The conversion of Simon the sorcerer in Acts 8:5-24 is an example of one who was able to see several things many today are not able to see.

I. The Difference Between Real Miracles And Counterfeits.

- A. Simon deceived the people with his magical arts prior to the coming of Philip– 8:9-11.
 - 1. When Philip performed real miracles (8:6,7), Simon saw the difference in the two – cf.8:13.
- B. Many today cannot tell the difference in genuine miracles and the spiritual counterfeits of today.
 - 1. Genuine miracles of the N.T.: Turning water to wine; Raising Lazarus and Dorcas from the dead; Walking on water; Healing man born blind; Feeding 5000 with five loaves and two fishes; Healing cripples who had been lame for 40 years.
 - a. All bible miracles were instantaneous and without question performed by the power of God.
 - 2. Fake miracles today.
 - a. Oral Roberts, Benny Hinn, Peter Popoff and others.
 - b. Pentecostal tent meetings.
 - c. Many supposedly healed die shortly thereafter from the ailment they were "healed" from.
 - d. Often the miracle worker will claim that it depends upon how much faith you have in Jesus.
 - 1) Acts 3:1-10– Lame man asking for money didn't have faith in Jesus.
 - e. Some men have been able to duplicate and explain how these "miracles" are performed.
- C. The purpose of miracles in the N.T. was to make us believe the message being preached – cf.Jn.20:30,31.

II. The Kingdom Of God Was Established.

- A. Philip came to Samaria preaching "*good tidings concerning the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ*"– 8:5,12.
- B. What made Philip's preaching about the kingdom "*good tidings*", or "*good news*"?
 - 1. The kingdom of God had been promised hundreds of years before – 2 Sam.7:12,13; Dan.2:44,45.
 - 2. It was at hand.
 - a. John the Baptist and Jesus were both teaching the kingdom was at hand – Matt.3:2; Matt.4:17.
 - b. Mk.9:1– Jesus said it was very near.
 - 3. The message of the kingdom was "good news" because it had already been established – Col.1:13,14; Heb.12:28; Rev.1:9.
 - 4. It was also good news because he could become a part of that kingdom – Jn.3:5; Acts 8:12,13.
- C. Premillennialists do not understand what Simon understood.
 - 1. Premillennialism denies that the kingdom of God has been established.
 - 2. They believe and teach Jesus came to establish the kingdom but because the Jews rejected Him He was unable to do so.
 - a. **Any doctrine which has the Son of God failing to accomplish what He sets out to do must be a false doctrine.**

III. The Way To Salvation.

- A. Simon saw what he needed to do to be saved.
- B. Here is what he did:
 - 1. He gave heed to the preaching of Philip – 8:6.
 - 2. He "*himself believed*" the message Philip – 8:13.
 - 3. He apparently quit the practice of his sorcery– cf.8:11-13.

4. He was baptized— 8:13; cf. Jn.3:5.
5. He continued with the disciples— 8:13.
- C. In doing so he obeyed the plan of salvation as revealed by Jesus – Matt.28:18-20; Mk.16:15,16.
- D. Many today cannot understand this simple path to salvation which Simon understood.

IV. The Gifts of the Holy Spirit Given by the Laying On of the Apostles Hands.

- A. Acts 8:14-19:
 1. When Peter and John arrived they *"prayed for them, that they might receive the Holy Spirit: for as yet it was fallen upon none of them: only they had been baptized into the name of the Lord Jesus"*— 8:14,15.
 - a. When they were baptized they did *"receive the gift of the Holy Spirit"*— cf. Acts 2:38.
 - 1) This we all receive as a down payment of the eternal inheritance— Eph.1:13,14.
 - b. The giving of the Holy Spirit here must be the miraculous indwelling described in 1 Cor.12.
 2. This is what Simon saw given by the apostles hands— 8:18.
 3. Simon sought to buy this ability to pass on the gifts of the Holy Spirit— 8:18,19.
 - B. Simon understood the miraculous gifts of the Holy Spirit were obtained only by the apostles hands.
 1. cf. Acts 19:6,7; Rom.1:11; 1 Tim.1:6— Other references which shows this to be true.
 - C. Many today seem to believe miraculous gifts are still available.
 1. They teach you receive them when you 'accept Jesus into your heart' or when you engage in earnest prayer.

V. A Child Of God Can Fall From Grace.

- A. Many religious groups teach "Once Saved Always Saved."
- B. Simon saw this doctrine was false because he once again became guilty of sin.
 1. He was destined to perish with his money— 8:20.
 2. His heart was no longer right with God— 8:21.
 3. Peter said he was *"in the gall of bitterness and in the bond of iniquity"*— 8:23.
- C. He learned by experience a child of God can fall from grace – cf. 1 Cor.10:12; Gal.5:4; 2 Pet.2:20-22.
- D. Again, this is something many today cannot accept.

VI. God's Second Law Of Pardon.

- A. In seeing a child of God can fall from grace he also saw God's law of pardon for the erring Christian.
 1. Simon, by baptism, was already in the family of God.
 2. Since he was already in the family of God he did not need to be born again...again.
- B. Notice what the apostle Peter told Simon to do:
 1. Repentance.
 - a. What was he told to repent of?
 - 1) Peter said, *"this thy wickedness"*— 8:22.
 - b. This is the first step in correcting any sin.
 - c. cf. Acts 17:11— All men are commanded to repent.
 2. Prayer (with confession of sin). Why pray?
 - a. Peter said, *"if perhaps the thought of thy heart shall be forgiven thee"*— 8:22.
 - b. What is to be in this prayer? – cf. 1 Jn.1:8-10.
- C. Simon asked Peter to pray for him— 8:24.

Conclusion:

- A. Simon was able to see several things many today cannot or will not see.