



## SIT Proof—Simon Believed

**W**e shall continue with Simon receiving the gift of holy spirit into manifestation. I've visited many churches claiming superior knowledge regarding this field of study, yet have left dismayed every time. Manifestation of this wonderful gift isn't supposed to be a dark experience, yet so many queried it beyond recognition. Recipients aren't supposed to be so highly selective that barely a single person participates. Misguided preachers that do not understand simple biblical research keys lead people down thorny paths and into a lifetime of confusion.

### The second record of speaking in tongues

The record of Simon is representative of these thorns, but we have many real-life examples of the same. Speedy internet searches expose spiritual folly to a remarkable degree. For instance, speaking in tongues is usually called a gift. It is



no such thing; it is a manifestation. In no place does the bible refer to it a gift. Another folly regards waiting for holy spirit baptism. You are never told to wait. The 12 Apostles were told to wait, but no one else. Another folly that leaves me flabbergasted is the teaching that speaking in tongues was given for the purpose of helping someone who spoke another language understand the truth of God. Ambiguous and intolerably misleading, speaking tongues is no such thing. Don't be caught believing something that has absolutely no biblical basis. Some teach that speaking in tongues is, in no way, proof of the presence and reality of the gift of holy spirit. In-

stead, they teach that proof of being born again is identified by a person's character. Biblical ignorance proclaims such doctrines. Many other examples exist, but I'd rather teach what God's Word has to say about the subject.

### What did Simon see?

The second record of first century Christians manifesting holy spirit is found in Acts chapter eight. Initially, only Jews by religion received, and when they received, they spoke in tongues. This record took place a number of years after the original outpouring.

**(Acts 8:1-3 KJV) And Saul was consenting unto his death. And at that time there was a great persecution against the church which was at Jerusalem; and they were all scattered abroad throughout the regions of Judaea and Samaria, except the**

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apostles. {2} And devout men carried Stephen to his burial, and made great lamentation over him. {3} As for Saul, he made havoc of the church, entering into every house, and haling men and women committed them to prison.

A persecution does not come the first day after something started. It takes time to initiate one. People became upset over time.

We are told that the all of the believers, not including the Apostles, were scattered abroad.

(Acts 8:4 KJV) Therefore they that were scattered abroad went every where preaching the word.

These people preached one thing, God's Word.

(Acts 8:5 KJV) Then Philip went down to the city of Samaria, and preached Christ unto them.

Philip was serving tables, and was called to serve the bread of life. Did you know

that the Jews considered the Samaritans half-Jews?

(Acts 8:6 KJV) And the people with one accord gave heed unto those things which Philip spake, hearing and seeing the miracles which he did.

Who performed these miracles? Philip did. People say just the opposite, that miracles aren't performed by a person, but by God. Yes, God does perform miracles, but so can Christians. The criteria was that they could do signs, miracles, and wonders. If the same criteria was maintained for teaching today, most churches would be closed for business. How did Philip perform miracles? He operated the manifestations of holy spirit.

(Acts 8:7 KJV) For unclean spirits, crying with loud voice, came out of many that were possessed with them: and many taken with palsies, and that were lame, were healed.

Whenever evil spirits enter a person, it's called possession. Notice the location. It was taking place in the great capital city of Samaria. As

he was preaching God's word, he was casting spirits out of people. Well, if there were no evil spirits in those poor souls, he would have had nothing to cast out. These spirits were using people as mediums, clairvoyants, soothsayers, etc ...

(Acts 8:8 KJV) And there was great joy in that city.

Deliverance from darkness brings great joy, even in the face of opposition. Not everyone will want to see God's power manifested. That was certainly the case here.

(Acts 8:9 KJV) But there was a certain man, called Simon, which beforetime in the same city used sorcery, and bewitched the people of Samaria, giving out that himself was some great one:

Simon used devils, sorcery, ESP, and a host of other devilish methods to hoodwink innocent people. Well, better said, devils used Simon.

(Acts 8:10 KJV) To whom they all gave heed, from the least to the greatest, saying,

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This man is the great power of God.

Can you believe that? No one escaped this devilish influence. They called Simon the sorcerer the great power of god. They just forgot to say which god.

(Acts 8:11 KJV) And to him they had regard, because that of long time he had bewitched them with sorceries.

Simon had no opposition. He bewitched people for a long time. But spiritualism craters around God's power. It becomes nothing.

(Acts 8:12 KJV) But when they believed Philip preaching the things concerning the kingdom of God, and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women.

They believed what Philip preached. How wonderful! Can you imagine? These same innocent people turned from certain slavery to liberty in Christ.

(Acts 8:13 KJV) Then Simon himself believed also: and when he was

baptized [became born again], he continued with Philip, and wondered, beholding the miracles and signs which were done.

The revolution was so great that even Simon had to take notice, but he wasn't going down without a fight. Simon wasn't the only evil-induced man. There were many more, and it was these that also believed. These were the sensitives, the mediums, and those immersed in black arts. Why can a man operating evil spirits be saved? Of course the answer is simple—God is greater than the devil. Simon the sorcerer was saved, baptized with the presence of Christ. Interestingly, he followed Philip around trying to figure out more about the power he couldn't deny. Humm. I thought that when you become born again, you are all cleaned up? Well, not Simon. Such a cleaning just doesn't happen, that is, until you renew your mind to God's Word. The renewed mind is the path to mental wholeness.

(Rom 12:2 KJV) And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the re-

newing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

## Receive

(Acts 8:14 KJV) Now when the apostles which were at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent unto them Peter and John:

Here, we see that something is developing. For the first time, when people were born again, they only received the Lord Jesus Christ inwardly. The word receive is dechomai. It means, 'to receive inwardly.' There is an entirely different word for receiving outwardly. It is lambano. Why were Peter and John sent to Samaria?

(Acts 8:15 KJV) Who, when they were come down, prayed for them, that they might receive the Holy Ghost:

In verse 15, the word receive is lambano. Word usage tells what was really happening. These people did not immediately manifest. That's why the Church's two top leaders were sent to Samaria.

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- Dechomai means, to receive inwardly.
- Lambano means, to receive outwardly, into manifestation.

The people in Samaria hadn't yet received into manifestation. Why was this? Peter and John were going to find out why.

(Acts 8:16 KJV) (For as yet he was fallen upon none of them: only they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.)

The gift of holy spirit was not fallen means, the gift had not yet been manifested. But, they had been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. They hadn't manifested. Don't be caught up in which pronoun to use for the holy spirit. In this verse, the translators decided to call it a 'he'. In Romans eight, they called it an 'it'.

(Rom 8:16 KJV) The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God:

You'll find these differences in the same bible. The gift from God is always holy

spirit within. It has nothing to do with it being a man or a woman. It is a spiritual gift of Christ in you and is everything you'll ever receive.

## They received outwardly

(Acts 8:17 KJV) Then laid they *their* hands on them, and they received [lambano] the Holy Ghost.

They laid hands on them so that the newly born again ones could receive outwardly. People say that you have to do this for people to manifest. No, you don't, unless it is revealed by God that you must do so. In some biblical accounts when this is not done, they still received.

## Laying on of Hands

Every time laying on of hands is used in the bible, it is either for ordination or in relationship to revelation. The people in Samaria had been spiritually deceived; evil spirits were blocking them. That's why how to remove this block was revealed to the Apostles. God told them what was happening, and they removed the block, they removed the evil spirits. The laying on of

hands identifies the minister with the one(s) receiving the healing.

## What Did Simon See?

(Acts 8:18 KJV) And when Simon saw that through laying on of the apostles' hands the Holy Ghost [gift—holy spirit] was given, he offered them money,

When Simon saw; what did he see? Spirit is not visible to the naked eye, but speaking in tongues is. He offered them cash to have this power. This never would have happened if Simon had automatically been cleaned after becoming born again. His crystal ball activities had surely earned him enough money to buy just about anything.

Just because you lay your hands on someone does not guarantee that they will receive holy spirit. Yes, I know. Men would have you believe that this is true, but it is not. You can lay your hands on anyone, but that means nothing. People say that they have healing in their hands. If they ever had anything in their hands, it would have to be phenom-

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ena. What if the healing were in your nose or your big toe? Nobody has healing in their hands. The usage of your hands might be necessary, and God would have to tell you that. Otherwise, there's nothing in the hands. Carry this logic through. If you can communicate a good thing, then you could communicate a bad thing too. Believing is the key to receiving anything from God. The symptoms disappeared and they spoke in tongues.

**(Acts 8:19 KJV) Saying, Give me also this power, that on whomsoever I lay hands, he may receive the Holy Ghost.**

Simon really wanted this power.

## Perish, Matter and Heart

**(Acts 8:20 KJV) But Peter said unto him, Thy money perish with thee, because thou hast thought that the gift of God may be purchased with money.**

'Perish' is an improper translation. If the gift of holy spirit is eternal life, it remains eternal life. Simon had received the gift. 'Perish'

means, 'rot'. What part of man rots? The body is what can rot. Simon had the wrong motive. He thought that he could buy a ministry. He wanted to buy an Apostleship.

**(Acts 8:21 KJV) Thou hast neither part nor lot in this matter: for thy heart is not right in the sight of God.**

In the text, 'matter' is 'ministry'. Simon was A-Okay in the spirit, but not so in the renewed mind. Usage of the word 'heart' teaches us to understand this in light of the entire verse. Does 'heart' relate to the seat of the personal life, or does it relate to the seat of the spiritual life? It refers to the seat of the personal life, the mind where you make your decisions. Simon's personal life was not right before God.

**(Acts 8:22 KJV) Repent therefore of this thy wickedness, and pray God, if perhaps the thought of thine heart may be forgiven thee.**

'Pray God that the thoughts of your mind may be forgiven thee'. 'If perhaps'

means, 'that' and is in the renewed mind category.

**(Acts 8:23-24 KJV) For I perceive that thou art in the gall of bitterness, and in the bond of iniquity. {24} Then answered Simon, and said, Pray ye to the Lord for me, that none of these things which ye have spoken come upon me.**

Did God forgive him? What do you think? Did they pray for him? I imagine so. Wouldn't you have prayed for him?

The second account of speaking in tongues took place in Samaria. Already, great persecution had fallen upon the land. In Samaria, Simon had been bewitching people for years. Then the people became born again, but they couldn't speak in tongues. Peter and John came, laid their hands on those who were blocked, and removed the cause. The people immediately manifested speaking in tongues.

Much love in Christ,

Jerry D. Brown