

SIMON: THE FIRST FALSE CONVERT — ACTS 8:9-24

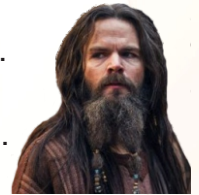
1 Simon Had a Wrong View of SELF

EGOTISTICAL

vs.9-11

- This is a common reality that keeps men from faith that saves. Pride keeps many out of heaven.
- Pride and egotism make people think they are good or important. Simon had a far too high view of himself.
- Simon saw himself as an emanation (early form of Gnosticism) from God far above everyone else.
- Pride robs the heart of the possibility of genuine repentance, and humility, which is necessary for salvation.

📖 “The wicked in his proud countenance does not seek God; God is in none of his thoughts” (Ps.10:4).



2 Simon Had a Wrong View of SALVATION

EXTERNAL

vs.12-13

- As people are being saved, Simon's hold on people begins to dwindle.
- The Bible says Simon believed, was baptized, and continued with Philip. Why? Simon is watching the signs and miracles taking place and he is amazed. He is attracted to the miracle power.
- If he could get that power, then he could mix his power with that power and elevate himself even more.
- He saw this miracle power as a commodity to be added to his arsenal, so he decided to join the movement.

📖 “⁸For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, ⁹not of works, lest anyone should boast” (Ep.2:8-9).



3 Simon Had a Wrong View of the SPIRIT

ECONOMIC

vs.14-21

- Peter and John officially welcome these Samaritans who had previously been excluded from the people of God.
- God withheld the gift of the Holy Spirit until it could be bestowed on them by Peter and John.
- God's purpose was to ensure continuity between the church in Jerusalem and the new church in Samaria to guard against division.
- Simon offered them money. Simon wanted to buy the true Holy Spirit.
- Simon had a very high view of himself and a very low view of God.

📖 “Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out demons. Freely you have received, freely give” (Mt.10:8).



4 Simon Had a Wrong View of SIN

EVASIVE

v.22-24

- Peter hit him hard, unmasking him as a wolf and false dangerous person.
- The door of repentance and getting the heart right with God was open to Simon if he would only take it.
- Instead of humbling his own heart before God, Simon asks Peter to pray he would be spared the consequences of his sin. Peter could not humble Simon's heart for him!
- Simon just gives a kind of a cynical statement about those who were preaching the gospel of grace and love.
- Simon appears to start out looking good, but he ends up so horribly. We don't know what became of Simon.

📖 “Now we know that whatever the law says, it says to those who are under the law, that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God” (Ro.3:19).

