

Simon Sorcerer Conferences

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Let's see where this goes, shall we? I want to look at Acts 8:18-24 and give an open challenge to conference chasing "power-seekers".

Here's the scripture verses:

*"When Simon saw that the Holy Spirit was given at the laying on of the apostles hands, he offered them some money and said, 'Give me also this ability so that everyone on whom I lay my hands may receive the Holy Spirit.' Peter answered, 'may your money perish with you, because you thought you could buy the gift of God with money! You have no part or share in this ministry, because your heart is not right before God. Repent of this wickedness and pray to the Lord. Perhaps he will forgive you for having such a thought in your heart. For I see that you are full of bitterness and captive to sin.' Then Simon answered, 'Pray to the Lord **for me** so that nothing you have said may happen to me.'*

I'd like to pose a question to those of you who attend every conference that has to do with "the prophetic" or signs and wonders. Why are you going? No really, why? Could it be that it is nothing more than Simon the Sorcerer's flesh operating in you a lust for power? Remember, he was such a powerful sorcerer that people actually thought that he came from Heaven and they called him "the divine power known as the Great Power." Perhaps when he got saved and burned his sorcery scrolls, he began to miss his supernatural ability. "Well, have no fear, there's plenty of fun to be had with this thing called the Holy Spirit. Maybe I can buy it". I know it says that he believed and was baptized, but don't the demons believe and shudder? This man had not that necessary fear of God. He saw God as a utilitarian tool for his own spiritual success. Maybe he could go back home and show them his "new" power?

But why was Simon so messed up? Peter said that Simon was captive to bitterness and sin. The fact that Peter uses the word "and" shows us that bitterness alone wasn't the only problem. There was a plurality of sin issues. It was sin in general that was his problem. Simon was converted when he saw power displayed through Phillip the evangelist. Is that real salvation? And what of the masses of people flooding our charismatic churches to see power and then coming forward to receive this Jesus of power? IT IS SELFISH CONVERSION, not real and not recorded in Heaven. I fear that this is what constitutes a majority of conference attendees. They come to Jesus because of a feeling or a buzz and then proceed to try and "buy" the anointing at these conferences through outrageous fees and expensive tapes and books and videos. "If so and so lays hands on me, I'll get his gift of healing, or prophecy." I believe the Lord is saying at this hour, "Your money perish with you because you thought you could buy me with money, yet **not pay the price!**"

The lack of relationship between Simon and God is further evidenced by his response to Peter's rebuke: "Pray to the Lord **for** me....". In other words, "You seek God on my behalf. You're the anointed one, pray for me so I don't have to do it myself. Paying the price in the closet is too high a price for me. Can you do it for me?" This is the same attitude that runs to altar calls for someone to do your spiritual work for you. Instead of going through the desert yourself, the wine press yourself, the purging of dross yourself, you want someone to zap you and make it all better. There is one way to Jesus: DEATH! You can't have resurrection life and resurrection giftings if you aren't dead first.

Simon wanted to have fun church. He wanted Goosebumps. He didn't want to pay the price with blood, sweat, tears, rejection, misunderstanding or anything else...no, just pay the "Peter and John Conference of Power" fee at the door, have them 'impart' something to you that costs you nothing of your flesh and go on your way passing out this new impartation everywhere you go.

Let's analyze ourselves here. It may hurt, but the Spirit of Truth will always bind and heal what He stabs and cuts open. He has oil and wine. He has the truth. You know what? He has the gifts to!

This is not a categorical denial that laying on hands imparts spiritual gifts. I know about Moses and Joshua, Paul and Timothy, Peter and John (we just read it), and the first several chapters of the book of Acts. But look carefully....Joshua was Moses' *servant* who followed him into the tent, but stayed there after Moses left. When Elijah anointed Elisha to succeed him as prophet, he was found working diligently with his own hands even though he was wealthy. Timothy was Paul's "son" in the faith. These men weren't lazy. They were diligent, God seeking men whom God knew He could trust with spiritual ability. Are we one of these young men? Women, this applies to you to! I believe that this is the key for many of us, i.e. being found of God in a spiritually responsible condition when He comes looking to bless and use.

Love you all,

mark jr.

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