

VILLAGE

CHURCH

Bible Study Notes

Intro Question:

1. Finish this sentence, I would pay good money for....

Aim/Prayer: for more people to baptised with the Holy Spirit

Read: Acts 8:4-25

Questions about the passage:

1. What does the passage suggest about the nature of Simon's sorcery compared to God's power?
2. Why does Simon want to buy the power of the Holy Spirit? How do you get the power of the Holy Spirit?
3. What is repentance? Do you think Simon repented?
4. What is the baptism of the Holy Spirit? Why hadn't the new believers received it do you think?

Questions for us:

1. How do we know we have the Holy Spirit? See 1 Corinthians 12:3, Galatians 5:22-23
2. Do you ever connect giving generously with God's blessing? Should we?
3. How is your heart before God right now? Is there anything you need to confess and repent of?

Pray: through the passage, for each other, for Village Church and for our local community.

Homework: invite someone to Life Series (details in Village App).

Remind: prayerfully consider giving to October Appeal

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The Book of Acts is all about what happened in the few years after the death and resurrection of Jesus. In his final command, Jesus said to his followers, go and make disciples of all nations. So, that's what they do. But not alone. God's Holy Spirit is with them to grow his Church in number and in maturity.

This week, we meet a sorcerer who encounters a much greater power in God and his Holy Spirit.

Questions about the passage:

- *What does the passage suggest about the nature of Simon's sorcery compared to God's power?*

I think the fact that Simon is amazed by the power of God suggests that he is only doing 'magic tricks'.

- *Why does Simon want to buy the power of the Holy Spirit? How do you get the power of the Holy Spirit?*

He practiced sorcery for money, now he sees an even better path to money and boasting. The gift and power of the Holy Spirit is a God-given thing. You can ask for it, but it's only the Holy Spirit who enables sinful hearts to desire him in faith. As a Christian, you have the Holy Spirit, but you can ask for 'more' of the Holy Spirit. Which doesn't mean more like having more wine or more bread. More of the Holy Spirit means more of the Holy Spirit's work in your life. More faith, more godliness, more repentance, more boldness etc. That is a good thing to pray for.

- *What is repentance? Do you think Simon repented?*

Repentance is a change of mind that results in a change of behavior. It always must be both. Just seeing things differently but not changing how we live is hypocrisy. There are signs Simon did repent, but as is always the case with repentance, only time tells!

- *What is the baptism of the Holy Spirit? Why hadn't the new believers received it do you think?*

Some think that baptism of the Holy Spirit is an additional experience that happens after salvation often accompanied by signs such as the speaking in tongues. However, I don't think the Bible teaches this. Instead, what we are seeing here in Acts is the Holy Spirit coming on new 'nations' just as Jesus commanded/explained in Acts 1. The Holy Spirit came on Jerusalem in Acts 2, now on Samaria in Acts 8, then to the Gentiles in Acts 10 (Cornelius the Gentile Centurion).