

The Gift of God

Description

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Acts 8:4-25

Iâ??ve heard folks call Simon the Sorcerer (Acts 8:9ff.) a â??make-believer,â?• a pretender. They insist his conversion was not genuine. But Luke says, â??Simon himself believed and was baptizedâ?• (v. 13). It canâ??t be plainer than that. Simon was a believer.

Those who dispute Simonâ??s conversion quote what Peter said later: â??Your heart is not right before God. Repent . . . and pray . . . that he may forgive youâ?• (Acts 8:21b-22). They canâ??t conceive that such a man was ever a believer.

Paul describes Simonâ??s dilemma: â??What I want to do I do not do, but what I hate I do . . . I have the desire to do what is good, but I cannot carry it outâ?• (Romans 7:15b, 18b). Simon was a believer struggling with his sinful nature.

Peter and John knew what Simon needed. â??They prayed for the new believers . . . that they might receive the Holy Spiritâ?• (Acts 8:15). Unfortunately, Simon was more interested in manipulating the Spirit than in receiving Him.

We do not know how Simonâ??s story ended: But what about you?

- Is your heart right with God?
- Have you surrendered to God and His enabling Spirit?

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