



## SERMON DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Week of March 16, 2025

Acts 8:9-25

**9 But there was a man named Simon, who had previously practiced magic in the city and amazed the people of Samaria, saying that he himself was somebody great. 10 They all paid attention to him, from the least to the greatest, saying, "This man is the power of God that is called Great." 11 And they paid attention to him because for a long time he had amazed them with his magic. 12 But when they believed Philip as he preached good news about the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women. 13 Even Simon himself believed, and after being baptized he continued with Philip. And seeing signs and great miracles performed, he was amazed. 14 Now when the apostles at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent to them Peter and John, 15 who came down and prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit, 16 for he had not yet fallen on any of them, but they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. 17 Then they laid their hands on them and they received the Holy Spirit. 18 Now when Simon saw that the Spirit was given through the laying on of the apostles' hands, he offered them money, 19 saying, "Give me this power also, so that anyone on whom I lay my hands may receive the Holy Spirit." 20 But Peter said to him, "May your silver perish with you, because you thought you could obtain the gift of God with money! 21 You have neither part nor lot in this matter, for your heart is not right before God. 22 Repent, therefore, of this wickedness of yours, and pray to the Lord that, if possible, the intent of your heart may be forgiven you. 23 For I see that you are in the gall of bitterness and in the bond of iniquity." 24 And Simon answered, "Pray for me to the Lord, that nothing of what you have said may come upon me." 25 Now when they had testified and spoken the word of the Lord, they returned to Jerusalem, preaching the gospel to many villages of the Samaritans.**

1. In our passage this week, we saw in Simon the sorcerer, that not everyone who claims to believe the gospel, is actually saved. What are your thoughts about that? In your opinion, is it healthy to question whether or not you truly have a saving faith?
2. So great was Simon in the eyes of the Samaritans, that they likened him to the power of God. Why do people crave that kind of power and influence, and what do you think it does to a person?
3. Think about the contrast between Simon and Philip. What differentiated the two and how does each man represent the difference between the unbeliever and the believer?

4. In our passage we read about the Apostles Peter and John, coming from Jerusalem to Samaria to pray for and lay hands upon the believers to receive the Holy Spirit. Why should this scene fill us with such hope and joy? What did the supernatural manifestation of the Holy Spirit on these first century Samaritan believers reveal to them and to the apostles?
5. Think of the fireworks illustration with the two dancing Tic Toc girls. Why is Simon's desire to purchase the apostles' "power" idolatry in its purest form? Can you think of ways people can be like Simon in our churches today?
6. Our passage this week should lead us to serious reflection. Is Jesus simply a feature of our lives, an add-on who doesn't affect our true ambitions and desires? Or do we have a true relationship with our Lord and Savior, the One who deserves our love, obedience, worship, adoration and our very lives? How can you know which kind of person you truly are? Why is ongoing repentance so important to our relationship with Christ and what does ongoing repentance practically look like?