



BIBLE STUDY

August 29, 2023

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THE CLEVER DECEIVER – AN ISSUE OF THE HEART **Acts 8:9-25**

I. The Pride of Simon

He is a sorcerer, arrogant and boastful, claiming to be great.

- a. He was self-proclaimed (v.9)

II. The Popularity of Simon

Many people in Samaria believe his claims because of his magic.

- a. People spoke well of Simon (v. 10)
 - i. The title he ascribed to
- b. He was deemed a credible source (v. 11)

III. The Profession of Simon

Amazed by Philip's miracles, Simon believes and is baptized.

- a. The belief of the Samaritans (v. 12)
- b. The belief of Simon (v. 13)
 - i. He was amazed by Philip's message and miracles (v. 13)

IV. The Perversion of Simon

He attempts to purchase the power to bestow the Holy Spirit to new converts from Peter and John.

- a. He wanted to buy “The Gift” (v. 18)

b. He wanted to exploit “The Gift” (v. 19)

V. **The Punishment of Simon**

Peter warns Simon that he is being controlled by Satan.

a. Peter condemns Simon for his actions (v. 20)

b. Simon’s real issue (vv. 21, 23)

c. Simon is warned to repent (v. 22)

VI. **The Plea of Simon**

He begs Peter to pray for him.

a. Simon begs for Peter’s help (v. 24)

REVIEW AT HOME

Don Stewart’s Examples of Satan as a great counterfeiter of Jesus.

1. Unique Son, And Son Of Destruction

- The Lord Jesus is the unique Son of God. (*John 1:18*)
- In a sense, Satan has his son, the man of sin. He is called "the son of destruction." (*2 Thessalonians 2:3*)

2. Trinity

- God is a Trinity - made up of God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. Satan has his own unholy trinity - himself, the beast, and the false prophet. (*Revelation 20:10*)

3. Children

- God has His own children - those who have put their trust in Him. (*John 1:12*)
- Satan has his own brand of children - those that practice evil. (*Matthew 13:38*)

4. Apostles

- Jesus chose twelve apostles to do His will. (*Matthew 10:1,2*)
- Satan has his own apostles. (*2 Corinthians 11:13*)

