

⁹ *But there was a certain man, called Simon, which beforetime in the same city used sorcery, and bewitched the people of Samaria, giving out that himself was some great one:*¹⁰ *To whom they all gave heed, from the least to the greatest, saying, This man is the great power of God.*¹¹ *And to him they had regard, because that of long time he had bewitched them with sorceries.*¹² *But when they believed Philip preaching the things concerning the kingdom of God, and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women.*¹³ *Then Simon himself believed also: and when he was baptized, he continued with Philip, and wondered, beholding the miracles and signs which were done.*¹⁴ *Now when the apostles which were at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent unto them Peter and John:*¹⁵ *Who, when they were come down, prayed for them, that they might receive the Holy Ghost:*¹⁶ *(For as yet he was fallen upon none of them: only they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.)*¹⁷ *Then laid they their hands on them, and they received the Holy Ghost.*¹⁸ *And when Simon saw that through laying on of the apostles' hands the Holy Ghost was given, he offered them money,*¹⁹ *Saying, Give me also this power, that on whomsoever I lay hands, he may receive the Holy Ghost.*²⁰ *But Peter said unto him, Thy money perish with thee, because thou hast thought that the gift of God may be purchased with money.*²¹ *Thou hast neither part nor lot in this matter: for thy heart is not right in the sight of God.*²² *Repent therefore of this thy wickedness, and pray God, if perhaps the thought of thine heart may be forgiven thee.*²³ *For I perceive that thou art in the gall of bitterness, and in the bond of iniquity.*²⁴ *Then answered Simon, and said, Pray ye to the LORD for me, that none of these things which ye have spoken come upon me.*²⁵ *And they, when they had testified and preached the word of the Lord, returned to Jerusalem, and preached the gospel in many villages of the Samaritans.” (Acts 8:9-25 KJV)*

⁹ *But there was a certain man, called Simon, which beforetime in the same city used sorcery, and bewitched the people of Samaria, giving out that himself was some great one.* Philip when he started to preach the gospel in Samaria he was not focusing on the power of the evil that was there around him. In the same city there was before him a man, *called Simon*, who used to practice sorcery, he was doing that out of his boasting and love to show off. Boasting is one of the sin that come out of pride. The sorcery he was practicing was out of love of power and to control others. Also sorcery was a profession and to this day people practice to gain living and to collect money. What he was practicing from power of darkness had bewitched the people, and made them amazed and astonished of what they saw from him up to the point it says, ¹⁰ *To whom they all gave heed, from the least to the greatest, saying, This man is the great power of God.* Philip did not focus on Simon and did not put in his mind with what Simon was amazing the people with. ¹¹ *And to him they had regard, because that of long time he had bewitched them with sorceries.* Philip trusted God and the power of the name of Jesus in doing miracles to save the people, to heal them and to deliver them from the power of darkness.

¹² *But when they believed Philip preaching the things concerning the kingdom of God, and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women.* Those who trust in God in serving Him they will never be put to shame. The trust that Philip had toward God drove the fear from his heart and enabled him to preach the message as the way he should declare it. God did work wonders as they heard Philip preaching, and people came out from the deception of

sorcery that they were oppressed with. The people believed and got baptized for the forgiveness of their sins.

¹³ *Then Simon himself believed also: and when he was baptized, he continued with Philip, and wondered, beholding the miracles and signs which were done.* Simon also believed and got baptized but as we see later on that his faith was not genuine. It says here about him that *he continued with Philip, and wondered, beholding the miracles and signs which were done.* So he was not after Christ and walking with Christ but he was walking with Philip for the sake of the miracles that he was seeing and not after Christ and His Word and commands. There are so many they go after miracles and follow miracle makers and not Christ. Simon was not after Christ otherwise he would humble down, but he was after the miracles and the power he saw and desired to have such power to boast with it.

¹⁴ *Now when the apostles which were at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent unto them Peter and John:* Earlier the apostles were left in Jerusalem, they were located there by God to be the head quarter for the church. Even when persecution was range out against the church, that location of the apostles was not disturbed. Only the rest of the members scattered to spread the Word, and the apostles left in Jerusalem to back up and support the new work of God that He was doing through the rest of the members who scattered. Upon hearing the victory that God did in Samaria, they send Peter and John to examine and to supply what is lacked in their faith. Paul said to the Thessalonians, *“Night and day praying exceedingly that we might see your face, and might perfect that which is lacking in your faith?” (1 Thessalonians 3:10)* Church leaders and shepherds need to move to the new work of God that is established under their leadership to support and supply what is lack in the faith of the new people who won for Christ.

¹⁵ *Who, when they were come down, prayed for them, that they might receive the Holy Ghost:* Peter and John when they arrived, they discern that the new converts in Samaria they need to receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit, ¹⁶ *(For as yet he was fallen upon none of them: only they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.)* Therefore they prayed for them and asked God to give the Samaritan who believed and baptized the gift of the Holy Spirit. Church leaders should pray for those who are not yet baptized by the Holy Spirit so that they will serve God with the gift of the Holy Spirit, ¹⁷ *“As every man hath received the gift, even so minister the same one to another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.” (1 Peter 4:10 KJV)*

¹⁷ *Then laid they their hands on them, and they received the Holy Ghost.* Laying on the hand is ordained by the Scripture and church leaders should lay their hands on the new disciples to receive the Baptism of the Holy Spirit. Moses Laid his hand on Joshua and commissioned him to lead the people (*Numbers 27:18-34 LKJV*), and Paul and other elders laid their hands on Timothy (*1 Timothy 4:14, 2 Timothy 1:6*). The laying on of the hand of the apostles on the Samaritan converts resulted in baptizing them with the Holy Ghost. Speaking in tongues and prophesying, and other manifestations of the Holy Ghost baptism was noticed by those who are there. Simon himself noticed that.

¹⁸ *And when Simon saw that through laying on of the apostles' hands the Holy Ghost was given, he offered them money,*¹⁹ *Saying, Give me also this power, that on whomsoever I lay hands, he may receive the Holy Ghost.* The Holy Spirit in that meeting setup allowed that

Simon would exposed his boasting and his wrong motive to be revealed, that he was not after Christ but after to gain power to use it to boast over others. Since his sorcery was superseded with the miracles that Christ did through the ministry of Philip, he was truly after power and he desired to buy this power with his money. But Peter rebuked him. Peter got discernment from the Holy Spirit and acted with boldness to combat sin and to clean the church from wrong motive, love of power and from corruption. Peter was not weak in front of the money that Simon offered. Money was offered by Simon to bribe the apostles. Church leaders should not enticed with money and keep aside correction or rebuke to those who deserve it because they are offering money, or because they are contributing to the financial needs of the church through tithes offering or other kinds of giving.

²⁰ ***But Peter said unto him, Thy money perish with thee, because thou hast thought that the gift of God may be purchased with money.*** Peter rebuked him and corrected him with precision and with authority. Noticed that sin need to be defined precisely and sinners inside the body of Christ needs to be rebuked publicly ²⁰ ***Them that sin rebuke before all, that others also may fear.*** (1 Timothy 5:20 KJV) *Thy money perish with thee*, that mean telling him you will perish and your money will be of no use to thee if you live in sin and use your money to promote your sin.

²¹ ***Thou hast neither part nor lot in this matter: for thy heart is not right in the sight of God.*** Peter assigned no ministry to Simon because Simon's heart was not right before God. He told him clearly that he has no part in this ministry of God before he will repent. Discernment is needed inside the body of Christ, and that shows how important that young ministers needed to be part and under the supervision of an apostolic ministry for various reasons. (1) To be imparted with faith. (2) To be empowered with the gifts of the Holy Spirit through the laying on of hands. (3) To protect the new growing ministry from those who are infiltrating their ranks with wrong motive. Peter approved the ministry of Philip but he disapproved that Simon will be part of that ministry.

²² ***Repent therefore of this thy wickedness, and pray God, if perhaps the thought of thine heart may be forgiven thee.*** ²³ ***For I perceive that thou art in the gall of bitterness, and in the bond of iniquity.*** Peter further explained to Simon what he perceived and is seeing in him, gall of bitterness. Bitter gall is extreme wickedness, a bitter hatred and producing a bitter fruit as we can read in **Romans 3: 14** ***Whose mouth is full of cursing and bitterness:*** That is why Peter put him aside till his repentance proven. Paul advised as in **Ephesians 4:31** ³¹ ***Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice:*** and in **Hebrews 12:15** ¹⁵ ***Looking diligently lest any man fail of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up trouble you, and thereby many be defiled;*** Peter also directed him to pray and speak with God directly and to stop following and admiring men. Simon was power centered and man pleaser and he needed to look to heaven and know his creator and his savior and experience his love and his forgiveness when he repents. The bitterness and hatred in the heart of Simon was displeasure to God because he would have no love to the brethren. But as he will repent and pray, the thoughts of his hearts would be changed and be acceptable before God who examine each and everyone heart and thoughts ²¹ ***Beloved, if our heart condemn us not, then have we confidence toward God.*** ²² ***And whatsoever we ask, we receive of him, because we keep his commandments, and do those things that are pleasing in his sight.*** ²³ ***And this is his commandment, That we should believe on the name of his Son Jesus Christ, and love one another, as he gave us commandment.***

²⁴ ***Then answered Simon, and said, Pray ye to the LORD for me, that none of these things which ye have spoken come upon me.*** ²⁵ ***And they, when they had testified and preached the word of the Lord, returned to Jerusalem, and preached the gospel in many villages of the Samaritans.*** (1 John 3:21-25 KJV)

²⁴ ***Then answered Simon, and said, Pray ye to the LORD for me, that none of these things which ye have spoken come upon me.*** What Peter announced to Simon was helpful and effective. Simon responded to that correction and asked Peter to pray for him that God's judgment would not come upon him. It is not the prayer of Peter to Simon will hinder God's wrath from reaching and affecting Simon but it is the true repentance of Simon would surely change the mind of God and will make it favorable toward him. Peter with his timely and precise rebuke to Simon had turn the anger of God from that congregation as Phinehas turned the wrath of God from the congregation of the Israelites when he dealt properly and adequately with the Simeonite who brought the Midianitish woman into his tent in the sight of the congregation of God, **Numbers 25:6-15** ⁶ ***And, behold, one of the children of Israel came and brought unto his brethren a Midianitish woman in the sight of Moses, and in the sight of all the congregation of the children of Israel, who were weeping before the door of the tabernacle of the congregation.*** ⁷ ***And when Phinehas, the son of Eleazar, the son of Aaron the priest, saw it, he rose up from among the congregation, and took a javelin in his hand;*** ⁸ ***And he went after the man of Israel into the tent, and thrust both of them through, the man of Israel, and the woman through her belly. So the plague was stayed from the children of Israel.*** ⁹ ***And those that died in the plague were twenty and four thousand.*** ¹⁰ ***And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying,*** ¹¹ ***Phinehas, the son of Eleazar, the son of Aaron the priest, hath turned my wrath away from the children of Israel, while he was zealous for my sake among them, that I consumed not the children of Israel in my jealousy.*** ¹² ***Wherefore say, Behold, I give unto him my covenant of peace:*** ¹³ ***And he shall have it, and his seed after him, even the covenant of an everlasting priesthood; because he was zealous for his God, and made an atonement for the children of Israel.*** ¹⁴ ***Now the name of the Israelite that was slain, even that was slain with the Midianitish woman, was Zimri, the son of Salu, a prince of a chief house among the Simeonites.*** ¹⁵ ***And the name of the Midianitish woman that was slain was Cozbi, the daughter of Zur; he was head over a people, and of a chief house in Midian.*** In the ministry of God there should no hypocrisy in dealing with sin otherwise people will be at lost with God. Therefore let us follow the instruction of **Proverbs 27:6** ***Faithful are the wounds of a friend; but the kisses of an enemy are deceitful.*** Evangelism would go hand in hand with discipleship and with discipline inside the body of Christ. There is a process of cleansing and pruning inside the body of Christ. Therefore each process of evangelism will not only lead to fruit and harvest but to cleansing and pruning to the parts that do not have fruit. As well as pruning it intends to remove the parts that are harmful to the body of Christ.

²⁵ ***And they, when they had testified and preached the word of the Lord, returned to Jerusalem, and preached the gospel in many villages of the Samaritans.*** Evangelism should continue in reaching out new people, teaching them, declaring to them the will of God and testifying to them the truth in full. The apostles John and Peter continued to reach out new villages of the Samaritans. They might recalled and got motivated to go further in reaching the lost with the Word of Jesus when He reached out with them the Samaritan city, Sychar, ³⁵ ***Say not ye, There are yet four months, and then cometh harvest? behold, I say unto you, Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest.*** (John 4:35 KJV)

The Church of God should be continually got motivated to reach new people and spread his Word to further places, cities, villages, towns, nations and languages.

My dear and beloved: Do not be afraid from trouble and problem that is happening inside the body of Christ, where sin is dealt with and people corrected. That should not hinder you to evangelize and reach others. God in pruning and cleaning His church we need to rejoice and respond favourably to that by continuing our mission to reach out the lost around us and in other places as we agree to pray.

My Prayer: Father God I come before you in the name of Jesus, who died on the cross for my sins and rose from the death to give me eternal life. Lord I thank you for your word that motivates me to go forward and reach the lost. Today Lord I put my full trust in you to go forward not minding troubles or discouraged by peoples' wrong motives and attitudes. I know that you are in full control and will not allow the evil to prevail. Lord sustains me with a good health and the needed strength to do this ministry. This is my prayer in Jesus name, Amen.

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