

The
Acts
of the Apostles



Diagnosing **Fake** Christianity

ACTS 8: 1 - 25

1. **Great outward appearances (Vs 9 – 13)**
2. **Sinful passions fed and indulged
(Vs 18 - 20)**
3. **The kind of ‘faith’ that cannot save you
(Vs 21 - 24)**

1. Great outward appearances

◎ **Simon, a sinner with form (Vs 9 - 11)**

⁹ But there was a certain man called Simon, who previously practiced **sorcery** in the city and **astonished** the people of Samaria, claiming that he was someone great, ¹⁰ to whom they all gave heed, from the least to the greatest, saying, “This man is the great power of God.” ¹¹ And they **heeded him** because he had astonished them with his sorceries for a long time.

◎ **Simon, a sinner who hears and responds outwardly (Vs 12 - 13)**

¹² But when **they believed** Philip as he preached the things concerning the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, both men and women **were baptized**. ¹³ Then Simon himself **also believed**; and when he **was baptized** he continued with Philip, and was amazed, seeing the miracles and signs which were done.

2. Sinful passions fed and indulged

- ◎ **Sin begins in our desires (Vs 18 - 19)**

¹⁸ And when Simon **saw** that through the laying on of the apostles' hands the Holy Spirit was given, he offered them money, ¹⁹ saying, "**Give me** this power also, that anyone on whom I lay hands may receive the Holy Spirit."

- ◎ **Our desires shape our thoughts (Vs 20)**

²⁰ But Peter said to him, "Your money perish with you, because you **thought** that the gift of God could be purchased with money!"

- ◎ **What we do outwardly shows what we're like inwardly**

3. The kind of 'faith' that cannot save you

- ⊙ **Outward actions and ceremonies don't get you right with God (Vs 21)**

²¹ You have neither part nor portion in this matter, for your heart is not right in the sight of God.

- ⊙ **Simon thought that he was a Christian (Vs 21)**

- ⊙ **Faith without repentance is no faith at all**

²² **Repent** therefore of this your wickedness, and pray God if perhaps the thought of your heart may be forgiven you.

²³ For I see that **you are poisoned** by bitterness and bound by iniquity.”

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(Vs 18 - 20)**
3. **The kind of ‘faith’ that cannot save you
(Vs 21 - 24)**

What about you?

- ⦿ There is no worse situation than to be self-deceived 'Christian'!
- ⦿ Have you been supernaturally 'born from above' by God's Holy Spirit?
- ⦿ Can your faith in Jesus Christ, and your turning away from loving to sin, only really be explained by a powerful miracle?
- ⦿ **Mere intellectual agreement with facts about Christ cannot save you. They will only make God's judgement all the worse.**