



Not For Sale

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“But Peter said unto him, Thy money perish with thee,

because thou hast thought that the gift of God may be purchased with money” (Acts 8:20).

“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” (Acts 8:18-24).

Miraculous power is exciting, and many people want to flow in it. Simon has believed the gospel message, was baptised in water, became a follower of Philip and the believers as well as admired the miracles, healings and deliverances that took place.

When he saw Peter ministering the Holy Spirit to believers, he wanted not only to have the power but also to be able to minister it to anybody he wanted to. He wanted it so quickly that he offered money to acquire the Holy Spirit.

How did the thought of purchasing the Holy Spirit come into his mind, when he did not see any of the recipients paying Peter and John for the blessing? He wanted a shortcut to power as many do today. He probably envisage a quick way of making money, because if he succeeded to buy the Holy Spirit from the apostles, he could also sell it to others.

Needless to say that he was disappointed at not being able to purchase the gift of God, but rather earned a stern rebuke from Peter who, through spiritual discernment could see through the intents and motives of his heart (see vs 20-23). To his credit, he immediately accepted the correction, repented and asked for prayers from the apostles (vs 24). True believers do not take offence when corrected but humbly repent and get restored back to faith.

Many, today, in seeking shortcuts to power have ended up being deceived, influenced and possessed

by demonic spirits.

Simon did not realise that:

- 1) The Holy Spirit is a gift from God (vs 20)
- 2) Jesus paid the full price for it (Acts 2:33)
- 3) It is given freely to believers who satisfy the condition. “If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children: how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him?” (Luke 11:13)
- 4) Although free, believers must still pay the price of desire, consecration, asking and tarrying to receive the Holy Spirit. “And, behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high” (Luke 24:49).
- 5) Jesus instructed the disciples “Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out devils: freely ye have received, freely give” (Matthew 10:8).
- 6) “For the gifts and calling of God are without repentance” (Romans 11:29).
- 7) The love of money and commercialising the gospel has caused shipwreck of the faith. Demas forsook the ministry, having loved this present world (2 Timothy 4:10).
- 8) Paul steered away from every temptation to commercialise the gospel by adopting the “tentmaking” evangelist style of ministry and supporting others (Acts 20:34)
- 9) Jesus taught the principle that “It is more blessed to give than to receive”

You cannot buy God with money! No gift of God is for sale. There is no short cut to the genuine power of God. Everybody of every background, status, gender or race must go through the same route of faith, consecration and tarrying, to obtain this free gift from God.