

The Danger of False Profession

Acts 8:4-25

Pastor Greg Wilson

Was Simon the Sorcerer a believer or not?

- It was the message Philip preached that changed their hearts
- Jesus' word overpowered Simon's magic
- Simon showed no repentance, no remorse, no desire to follow Christ

Why had these believers not received the Holy Spirit already?

- This was a bridge between taking the Gospel from the Jews to the Gentiles
- This could be called the Samaritan pentecost
- It proved that the Gospel was the power of God for salvation even for non-Jewish people
- This movement among the Samaritans was endorsed, received, and enthusiastically participated in by the whole church

This story shows how close a person can come to salvation and still not be converted. Simon heard the Gospel, saw the miracles, gave a profession of faith, and was baptized, and yet he was not born again.