

The WRONG Way to Live in a New Way

I. A new way to live is **NOT** _____ Jesus to your bag of tricks.

But there was a man named Simon, who had previously practiced magic in the city and amazed the people of Samaria, saying that he himself was somebody great. They all paid attention to him, from the least to the greatest, saying, "This man is the power of God that is called Great." vv. 9-10

II. A new way to live is **NOT** _____ and going through the motions.

Even Simon himself believed, and after being baptized he continued with Philip. And seeing signs and great miracles performed, he was amazed. v. 13

III. A new way to live is **NOT** _____ power for personal gain.

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

The right way—to the new way—begins with a _____ heart.

But Peter said to him, "May your silver perish with you, because you thought you could obtain the gift of God with money! You have neither part nor lot in this matter, for your heart is not right before God. Repent, therefore, of this wickedness of yours, and pray to the Lord that, if possible, the intent of your heart may be forgiven you. For I see that you are in the gall of bitterness and in the bond of iniquity." vv. 20-23

Repent of your _____ motives and surrender to Jesus' new direction.

Pray _____ to God, who hears your prayers and forgives your sin.

Receive _____ that can free you to live in a new way.



HOME GROUP

Lesson + Devotional

Before you begin, ask the Holy Spirit to teach you and guide your study.

1. Read Acts 8:9-25. Jesus told the disciples in Acts 1:8 to take the gospel to Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria and the ends of the earth. How was this event the next step in fulfilling His commission, and what does it tell you about the gospel?

2. Why do you think Luke recorded this episode with Simon? What does it add to the story of Acts and the growth of the church?

3. What do you learn about faith from Simon's words and actions?

4. What sort of faith do we want to foster in others when we demonstrate and explain the gospel? In other words, what cautions about following Jesus do we share with them so they understand what the life of a disciple requires?

5. What "bag of tricks" do people use to convince themselves and others that they are true followers of Christ? In what ways do people today try to "buy" spiritual influence?

6. When and how do you catch yourself just "going through the motions" of the Christian life? Give an example of a time when this happened to you. How did realizing you were doing that help you examine your faith more deeply and motivate you toward growing deeper in Christ?

7. Peter said that the intent of Simon's heart was not right before God. His motivations were self-serving. Would you say you check the motivations of your heart when you participate in any part of the Christian life? Why is it important to do so from time to time?

8. What did you take away from this sermon that caused you to soberly examine your own faith and seek a life that is more focused on Jesus?

HELPFUL Quotes

Simon was intrigued by what had happened and made the foolish mistake of trying to buy the Spirit. The term "simony" comes from his misguided attempt to purchase the gift of the Spirit. His request revealed two major misconceptions. First, he mistakenly assumed the Holy Spirit was a gift that could be purchased. Second, he thought the Spirit was a power that could be manipulated. The Spirit is a gift God gives to true believers, and the Spirit is a person, not a power to exploit for selfish purposes.

- William Marty

The language of this verse, *You have no part or share in this ministry* (*logō*, "word, matter"), implies Simon was not a Christian. (For similar terminology see Deut 12:12; 14:27. Just as the Levites had no inheritance in the Promised Land, so also Simon had no portion in the matter of salvation.) The adverb perhaps does not mean God is reluctant to forgive sin. The question was whether Simon would repent of his heart's intention.

- Stanley Toussaint

YOUR NEXT STEP AT Christ Chapel



Connect and Belong

New or returning, fill out a Connect Card and experience life together at Christ Chapel.

Together in Prayer

We want to pray with and for you this week as we go to God together.



Partner with Us by Giving

Be a part of what God is doing near and far by giving to local and global ministry partners.

Upcoming Events

Join in to grow your faith, make disciples, and reach those who do not know or walk with Jesus.



A WONDERFUL Offer

Being a Christian isn't based on membership in a local church or keeping a set of rules. It involves a personal relationship with Jesus Christ and an understanding of who He is and what He has done to provide man with a way to experience God's love for us. Here's how to know Jesus Christ as your personal Savior:

1. Admit that you're a sinner, separated from a holy and perfect God.
(Romans 3:23; Isaiah 53:6)
2. Understand that the penalty for your sin is death – eternal separation from God and all that is good.
(Romans 6:23; Hebrews 9:27)
3. Believe that Jesus Christ took the penalty for your sin by dying in your place and conquered death by rising from the dead.
(Romans 5:8; 2 Corinthians 5:21)
4. Receive the free gift of salvation by trusting in Christ alone as your Savior from sin and death and your provider of true and eternal life.
(Romans 4:4-5; Ephesians 2:8-9)

You can use this prayer to express your decision to God:

Dear God, I know that I am a sinner. I believe that Jesus Christ died on the cross for me and rose from the dead. I trust in him alone as the only way to be reconciled to you. Thank you for the forgiveness of sins and the eternal life I now have. Amen.



We'd love to know about your decision. Scan the QR code to learn more about following Jesus!