

Eternity Daily Bible Study - No. 384

Series: The Primal Church - Acts Chapters 1-8

Verses: Acts 8:9-13

Topic: The True Power Of God

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Acts 8:9-13 KJV 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.

This is the tale of “Simon Magus” (Simon the magician) and his conversion to Christ. He was a local shaman and occult practitioner who exalted himself among the “New Agers” in the religious melting pot of Samaria. He “got results” and such amazing results that he was seen as “the great power of God” and everyone took note of Simon – from the least to the greatest and over many years he had attained considerable community stature.

Such people are the keys to evangelizing the culture. They are the centers of the spiritual world and its operation in that place and when they are converted a great spiritual bondage is broken and liberty for the gospel is obtained. It is interesting that the Holy Spirit fell on the Samaritans some time after Simon’s conversion. One church-planting strategy in Filipino villages is to pray for the albularyos (local witch doctors) first and seek their conversion and the destruction of the charms (anting-anting) that they use to bewitch the people. Once these “captivators” of the masses are dealt with the local villagers can be freed much more readily.

A key point is baptism – a form renouncing of the old spiritual life and an accepting of the new. Ancient baptisms used to be preceded by exorcisms, destruction of amulets and charms and the formula “I renounce Satan and all his works”. It truly was a moving from darkness to light. Thus Luke mentions both the baptism of the Samaritans – men and women and of Simon Magus himself.

I strongly recommend that believers who have come out of a New Age or occult

background or who have worshipped idols – should go through a time of spiritual cleansing, and formally confess and renounce all the works of the Devil, including those of the ancestors such as grandparents who read the tarot etc. I have found that praying the following brief prayer, twice a day, for about a fortnight, helps people to become “clear” and lifts the spiritual cloud that often dwells about their lives:

“In the name of the Jesus Christ I come to God and confess the sins of my parents and ancestors. I renounce all the works of the Devil and forsake all occult practices. I ask for the cleansing and protecting power of the blood of Jesus and rely on Him alone for salvation. I ask for the forgiveness of all my sins in Jesus name. I forgive those who have wronged me and ask to be loosed from any bonds of bitterness and unforgiveness. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth I command Satan and all those who serve him to depart from me forever. By the power of the cross I break all curses that may be upon me either through the ancestral line, or through any other source. I hand all the ground in my life that Satan may have occupied over to the Lordship of Jesus Christ and I put on the full armor of God. I ask to be filled completely with the Holy Spirit, to be enlightened as to the will of God and be made obedient unto the commands of Christ in love. In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen.”

As you pray the above prayer it helps to be specific but not morbid. Confess all such occult sins, including drugs and pornography, briefly and contritely to God, even those to the third and fourth generation (see article below for the reason why). A few brief words will suffice e.g. “I confess that my aunt was a white witch and I renounce this witchcraft completely.” You may also have certain incidents come to mind – such as an amulet or a book that you possess that should be destroyed. Burn all magic objects and all things associated with sin (such as drug paraphernalia and pornography). This breaking of the bondages of darkness can be done alone, without any great fuss. Yet it can help to have someone also backing you up in prayer. I have seen it change many lives.

[For more bible-teaching on this go to: <http://www.aibi.ph/aibi/occult1.htm>]

Simon was impressed by Phillip; in fact he was amazed and filled with wonder. The quantity and quality of Phillips miracles and his teaching about the Kingdom of God and the power of the name of Jesus Christ astonished Simon. How long is it since the power of the name of Jesus astonished someone near you? We need to both teach the Kingdom and see it manifested in power.

Faith in the name of Jesus breaks all bondages, ends all curses, heals all sicknesses, casts out all demons and leads to eternal life. The lame walk, the blind see, the paralytics are healed through the presence of the Kingdom and the power of the Name. We are often a little timid about using the name of Jesus in spiritual warfare. But the apostles were not at all timid about this and they are our example.

Now I am not saying that you will heal everyone tomorrow. But I am saying that you will see power unleashed and start astonishing people with the power of God when you boldly use the name of Jesus with authority to break the bonds of darkness.

Now the power is not in you, you sense that, and that is quite so, you are an earthen vessel, the power is in the Name. Do not look at yourself or you will never start. Look at the power and grace and promises of God!

Blessings,

John Edmiston (johned@aibi.ph)
Eternity DBS web-site: <http://www.aibi.ph/eternity/>

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