

Speaking Truth In Love

A sorcerer named Simon had entranced the people of Samaria. “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*. 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” (Acts 8:12-13). According to Jesus, the Samaritans and Simon were in a “saved” condition (cf. Mk 16:16).

Later, “when Simon saw that through the laying on of the apostles’ hands the Holy Spirit was given, he offered them money, saying, “Give me this power also, that anyone on whom I lay hands may receive the Holy Spirit” (Acts 8:18-19). The apostle Peter responded saying, “*Your money perish with you*, because you thought that the gift of God could be purchased with money! You have neither part nor portion in this matter, for *your heart is not right in the sight of God*. Repent therefore of this your wickedness, and pray God if perhaps the thought of your heart may be forgiven you. For I see that you are *poisoned by bitterness and bound by iniquity*” (Acts 8:20-23).

God’s word tells us that Simon—ONCE SAVED—had sinned and lost favor with God. Peter commanded Simon to repent and pray for his forgiveness (cf. Acts 8:22), which is the law of pardon for a Christian! Thus a Christian may fall from God’s marvelous unmerited favor: His Grace.

Church of Christ
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Sunday: 9:30; 10:30 a.m. and 6:00 p.m.
Wednesday: 7:00 p.m.