

The Conversion and Restoration of Simon
(Acts 8:14-24)

Introduction:

1. This morning we studied a number of Scriptures that relate to repentance.
2. We pointed out from Acts 8:22 that Christians must repent when we sin.
3. This evening we are taking a closer look at the man involved -- Simon.
4. In our lesson we are concentrating on "the conversion and restoration of Simon."
5. Let us first consider . . .

Discussion:

- I. THE CONVERSION OF SIMON (Acts 8:5-13)
 - A. (Acts 8:5-8, 12) Philip reached many people in Samaria.
 1. (vs.5) Philip went to Samaria where he preached Christ to the people there.
 2. (vs.6-7) The people in Samaria listened to Philip's teaching because of the great works he performed.
 3. (vs.12) Both men and women believed and were baptized (Mark 16:16).
 4. We can understand why there was so much joy in Samaria (vs.8).
 - B. (Acts 8:9-11) A sorcerer named Simon lived in Samaria.
 - C. (Acts 8:13) Simon was converted -- he believed and was baptized (Mark 16:16).
 - D. Let us turn our attention to . . .
- II. THE RESTORATION OF SIMON (Acts 8:14-24)
 - A. (vs.14-17) Peter and John, apostles, were sent to Samaria.
 1. Philip had taught the people in Samaria, and he had baptized them.
 2. Philip was able to perform miracles because the apostles had laid their hands on him (Acts 6:5-6).
 3. However, Philip could not lay his hands on people so they could receive the Holy Spirit -- only the apostles could do this.
 4. Peter and John prayed for the Christians in Samaria and laid their hands on them so they could receive the Holy Spirit.
 - B. (vs.18-19) Simon made a mistake.
 1. He wanted to be able to lay hands on people so they could receive the Holy Spirit.
 2. He offered to buy this ability from Peter and John.
 - C. (vs.20-23) Peter rebuked Simon.
 1. (vs.20-21) Peter pointed out Simon's problem.
 2. (vs.22) Peter told Simon what to do.
 3. (vs.23) Peter revealed Simon's condition.
 - D. Thankfully, Simon responded as he did in vs.24.
- III. ADDITIONAL PASSAGES THAT TEACH US HOW CHRISTIANS RECEIVE FORGIVENESS
 - A. (1 John 2:1-2) When we sin, we have an advocate with the Father.
 - B. We are to "*walk in the light*" (1 John 1:7).
 - C. We are to confess our sins (1 John 1:9; James 5:16b).
 1. Sins known only to God should be confessed to Him.
 2. Sins committed against other people should be confessed to them.
 3. Sins of a public nature should be confessed publicly.

Conclusion:

1. We have examined the conversion and restoration of Simon.
2. By examining Simon's conversion, we know how to become Christians.
3. By examining Simon's restoration, we know how Christians receive forgiveness of sins.
4. For a closing thought, let us listen to Solomon's words of wisdom found in Proverbs 28:13.