



Simon the Sorcerer and the Heart Behind Giving



Explore Simon's story to learn what God reveals about true giving and the transformation of the heart through faith.



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Introduction

Welcome to this 7-day journey exploring the story of Simon the Sorcerer and what it reveals about giving and the heart behind it. In Acts 8, we encounter Simon, a man fascinated by the power he saw in the apostles. His story holds profound lessons about our motives in giving and faith. As we delve into Scripture each day, we will *reflect deeply on the condition of our hearts* and how true generosity flows from genuine faith, not merely from external actions.

This study invites you to consider the difference between giving to impress, control, or gain approval and giving as an act of worship and trust in God. Simon's attempt to purchase the gift of the Holy Spirit exposes the heart's true intentions, reminding us that God desires sincerity over showmanship.

Throughout this week, you'll engage with Scripture, reflection questions, and prayers designed to help you align your heart with God's heart. Expect moments of challenge, encouragement, and transformation as you learn to give with the right heart and experience God's grace more fully. Let's embark on this spiritual journey, embracing the lessons God wants to teach us about generosity, faith, and humility.





Day 1: ✨ Encountering Simon the Sorcerer



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Your Verse

Acts 8:9-13 – “Now Simon, a sorcerer from the city, practiced sorcery and amazed the people...”

Supporting Scriptures

- *Acts 8:18 – “When Simon saw that the Spirit was given at the laying on of the apostles’ hands...”*
- *2 Corinthians 9:7 – “Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give...”*



Day 1: ✨ Encountering Simon the Sorcerer

Devotional: Recognizing True Heart Transformation

Simon's story begins in the city of Samaria, where his sorcery and magic amazed many. His influence highlights how people can be drawn to power and spectacle. Though Simon witnessed the apostles' miracles, there was a crucial difference—faith rooted in God, not in the power itself. Simon's fascination with the miraculous shows a heart captivated more by external power than internal transformation.

As we reflect on this, let us ask: Are we attracted to God's power to show off, or do we desire a genuine change in our hearts? True giving and faith come from an internal surrender, not from a desire for control or recognition. God looks beyond our actions into the motives driving them.

Today, consider your heart's motivations in faith and generosity.



Day 1: ✨ Encountering Simon the Sorcerer

Reflect and Apply

1. What draws me to God: His power or His presence?

2. Do I give to impress others or to honor God?

3. How can I seek transformation rather than just outward blessings?



Day 1: ✨ Encountering Simon the Sorcerer

Journaling Prompts

1. Write about a time you were tempted to show off your faith or generosity.

2. Reflect on what motivates your giving today.

3. Pray for God to reveal your heart's true intentions.



Day 1: ✨ Encountering Simon the Sorcerer

Prayer for Today

Dear Lord, help me to desire You for who You are and not just Your power. Search my heart and reveal any hidden motives in my faith and giving. Teach me to give cheerfully and sincerely, rooted in love for You. May my actions reflect a heart transformed by Your grace. *In Jesus' name, Amen.* ❤️ 🙏 ✨





Day 2: 💡 The Moment of Temptation



Day 2: 💡 The Moment of Temptation

Your Verse

Acts 8:18-19 – “When Simon saw that the Spirit was given at the laying on of the apostles’ hands, he offered them money...”

Supporting Scriptures

- *1 Timothy 6:10 – “For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil...”*
- *Matthew 6:21 – “For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”*



Devotional: Guarding Against the Temptation to Control

Simon's temptation was clear—he tried to buy the power of the Holy Spirit. This moment reveals a heart trying to control God's gifts for personal gain. The love of money and desire for influence can easily distort our spiritual lives. God desires a heart that trusts Him, not one trying to bargain or manipulate.

Money and resources in themselves are not evil, but the motive behind how we use them can be. Jesus reminds us that our treasure reveals what our heart truly values. When we give, is it to gain favor, status, or spiritual power, or is it a free, joyful response to God's grace?

Reflect on the temptations that can turn genuine faith and giving into transactions and how you can guard your heart.



Day 2: 💡 The Moment of Temptation

Reflect and Apply

1. Have I ever given or acted out of a desire for personal gain in my spiritual walk?

2. What treasures am I currently holding too tightly in my heart?

3. How can I surrender control and trust God fully with my resources?



Journaling Prompts

1. Identify any areas where you might be trying to control God's blessings.

2. Write about how Jesus' teaching on treasure challenges you today.

3. Ask God to help you release control and grow in trust.



Day 2: 💡 The Moment of Temptation

Prayer for Today

Lord, protect me from the temptation to manipulate or control Your gifts.
 Help me to keep my heart focused on You rather than on worldly treasures.
 Teach me to use what I have for Your glory, with a spirit of trust and freedom.
 May my giving please You in heart and deed. *Amen.* 💰 🛡️ 🙏





Day 3: ❤️ The Condition of the Heart



Day 3: ❤️ The Condition of the Heart

Your Verse

Acts 8:20-23 – “Peter answered: ‘May your money perish with you... You have no part or share in this ministry, because your heart is not right before God.’”

Supporting Scriptures

- *Proverbs 4:23 – “Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it.”*
- *Jeremiah 17:9 – “The heart is deceitful above all things and beyond cure.”*



Day 3: ❤️ The Condition of the Heart

Devotional: Aligning the Heart with God's Purpose

Peter's strong rebuke of Simon shines a spotlight on the importance of a pure heart. It's not enough to want spiritual gifts or recognition; God desires authenticity and humility. A heart that isn't right with God cannot effectively participate in His ministry. Our hearts determine the quality and fruitfulness of our giving and service.

Many struggle with deceitful desires or misguided intentions. Yet God's grace is available to transform and renew our hearts. True repentance is the first step to aligning our heart with God's purpose and embracing generosity that pleases Him.

Today, examine your heart honestly before God and welcome His refining work.



Day 3: ❤️ The Condition of the Heart

Reflect and Apply

1. What areas of my heart might not be right before God?

2. Have I acknowledged any deceit or selfish motives in my giving?

3. How can I invite God to purify and guide my heart?



Journaling Prompts

1. Write a prayer asking God to reveal and heal any impurities in your heart.

2. Reflect on how guarding your heart could change how you give.

3. Consider ways to practice humility in your spiritual walk.



Day 3: ❤️ The Condition of the Heart

Prayer for Today

Father God, I lay my heart open before You. Please cleanse it of anything selfish or deceitful and fill me with Your truth and love. Enable me to serve You with a genuine heart and to give freely and humbly. May my life be a pure reflection of Your grace. *Thank You, Lord.* ❤️ 🙏 ✨





Day 4: 🎁 True Generosity Expressed



Day 4: 📁 True Generosity Expressed

Your Verse

2 Corinthians 9:6-7 - “Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously...”

Supporting Scriptures

- *Luke 6:38 - “Give, and it will be given to you...”*
- *Proverbs 11:25 - “A generous person will prosper...”*



Day 4: 🎁 True Generosity Expressed

Devotional: Generosity That Reflects God's Heart

True generosity is an overflow of a heart grateful for God's blessings. It's not about the amount but the willingness and joy behind giving. Paul reminds us that sowing generously leads to reaping blessings. This principle goes deeper than finances — it includes time, talents, and love.

Giving as an act of worship transforms our perspective and impacts others positively. When our hearts are in right alignment with God, generosity becomes a lifestyle, not a mere obligation. Through this, we participate in God's kingdom work and reflect His character to the world.

Ask yourself if your giving flows from gratitude and trust in God's provision.



Day 4: 📁 True Generosity Expressed

Reflect and Apply

1. Does my giving express my trust in God's provision?

2. In what ways can I be more generous beyond finances?

3. How does generosity shape my relationship with God and others?



Day 4: 📁 True Generosity Expressed

Journaling Prompts

1. List the ways God has blessed you this week and how you might share those blessings.

2. Write about a time generous giving changed your heart or life.

3. Plan a specific act of generosity this week.



Day 4: 🎁 True Generosity Expressed

Prayer for Today

Gracious Father, thank You for Your abundant blessings. Teach me to give with a joyful and generous heart. May my acts of generosity reflect Your love and grace to others. Help me sow seeds of kindness, knowing You will faithfully provide in every area of life. *In Jesus' name, Amen.* 🎁 😊 🙏





Day 5: 🌿 Faith Over Transaction



Day 5: 🌿 Faith Over Transaction

Your Verse

Hebrews 11:6 – “Without faith it is impossible to please God...”

Supporting Scriptures

- *Romans 12:8 – “...if it is giving, give generously...”*
- *Mark 12:41-44 – The Widow’s Offering*



Day 5: 🌿 Faith Over Transaction

Devotional: Giving as an Act of Faith

Simon's mistake was treating spiritual gifts as transactions rather than acts of faith. Faith pleases God, not attempts to buy or control His blessings. The biblical examples of giving, especially the widow's offering, show that God values faith and sacrifice over the size of the gift.

Giving with true faith means trusting God to provide and surrendering control over outcomes. It is an expression of reverence and dependence, not a calculated move for spiritual gain. Faith-filled giving transforms both the giver and the community.

Reflect on whether your giving is an expression of faith or transaction.



Reflect and Apply

1. Is my giving motivated by faith or expectation of return?

2. How can I cultivate a deeper trust in God's provision?

3. What can the widow's example teach me about sacrificial giving?



Day 5: 🌿 Faith Over Transaction

Journaling Prompts

1. Write about an experience where faith in God led to unexpected blessings.

2. Consider how sacrificial giving challenges or encourages you.

3. Pray for a heart that gives generously in faith.



Day 5: 🌿 Faith Over Transaction

Prayer for Today

Lord Jesus, increase my faith so that I may give freely and sacrificially. Help me to trust You fully without trying to bargain or control. Let my giving be a true reflection of faith in Your loving provision and grace. *Thank You for Your eternal generosity.* 🙏 ✨ 🌿





Day 6: 🙏 Humility: The Heart's Foundation



Day 6: 🙏 Humility: The Heart's Foundation

Your Verse

James 4:6 - "God opposes the proud but shows favor to the humble."

Supporting Scriptures

- *Philippians 2:3 - "Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit..."*
- *Micah 6:8 - "Act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God."*



Day 6: 🙏 Humility: The Heart's Foundation

Devotional: Embracing Humility in Giving and Faith

Humility is central to a heart that pleases God in giving and faith. Simon's pride blinded him to God's ways. God opposes the proud but uplifts the humble, those who recognize their need for Him. Humility involves self-awareness, repentance, and a willingness to put others first.

When our hearts are humble, our giving becomes an act of service, and our faith frees us from selfish ambition. Walking humbly with God aligns our desires with His and opens doors for His blessing in our lives and ministries.

Consider how cultivating humility affects your relationship with God and others today.



Day 6: 🙏 Humility: The Heart's Foundation

Reflect and Apply

1. Where might pride influence my giving or faith?

2. How can humility transform my spiritual walk?

3. What practical steps can I take to walk humbly with God?



Day 6: 🙏 Humility: The Heart's Foundation

Journaling Prompts

1. Reflect on a moment God showed you the need for humility.

2. Write about how humility has changed your interactions with others.

3. Pray for a humble heart that honors God in all things.



Day 6: 🙏 Humility: The Heart's Foundation

Prayer for Today

Heavenly Father, cultivate humility within me so that I may honor You in every aspect of my life. Help me to serve rather than seek to be served, to give not out of pride but from a humble heart. May my faith and generosity reflect Your grace and truth. *In Jesus' name, Amen.* 🙏 ❤️ 🌿





Day 7: ✨ Living a Heart-Aligned Life



Day 7: ✨ Living a Heart-Aligned Life

Your Verse

Colossians 3:23-24 - “Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord...”

Supporting Scriptures

- *Matthew 6:33 - “Seek first His kingdom and His righteousness...”*
- *Psalms 51:10 - “Create in me a pure heart, O God...”*



Day 7: ✨ Living a Heart-Aligned Life

Devotional: Living Generously With a Surrendered Heart

As this study concludes, the call is to live a life where every act, including giving, flows from a heart aligned with God. Whether in service, generosity, or daily work, doing all things for God honors Him and transforms us. This alignment stems from a heart purified and renewed by the Holy Spirit.

Seeking God's kingdom first reorders our priorities and frees us from selfish ambition or control. We become vessels of God's grace and generosity, shining His light in the world. Let your giving and faith be an expression of a life fully surrendered to Jesus.

Commit today to living with a heart aligned to God's purpose in all things.



Reflect and Apply

1. How can I keep my heart aligned with God daily?

2. What changes might I make to serve God wholeheartedly?

3. In what ways can I live out generosity beyond this study?



Day 7: ✨ Living a Heart-Aligned Life

Journaling Prompts

1. Write a commitment prayer to live with a heart aligned to God.

2. Reflect on practical ways to serve with joy and humility.

3. Plan how you will continue growing in faith and generosity.



Day 7: ✨ Living a Heart-Aligned Life

Prayer for Today

Lord Almighty, fill my heart with Your Spirit so I may serve, give, and live wholeheartedly for You. Help me seek Your kingdom above all else and surrender every part of my life to Your will. Create in me a pure heart and renew a steadfast spirit within me. May my life glorify You in all things. *Amen and amen.* ✨ 🙏 ❤️





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