11-24-19 - “This is Not for Sale”

*“Then Peter and John laid their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.* [*When*](https://biblehub.com/greek/1161.htm)[*Simon*](https://biblehub.com/greek/4613.htm)[*saw*](https://biblehub.com/greek/3708.htm)[*that*](https://biblehub.com/greek/3754.htm)[*the*](https://biblehub.com/greek/3588.htm)[*Spirit*](https://biblehub.com/greek/4151.htm)[*was given*](https://biblehub.com/greek/1325.htm)[*through*](https://biblehub.com/greek/1223.htm)[*the*](https://biblehub.com/greek/3588.htm)[*laying on*](https://biblehub.com/greek/1936.htm)[*of the*](https://biblehub.com/greek/3588.htm)[*apostles’*](https://biblehub.com/greek/652.htm)[*hands,*](https://biblehub.com/greek/5495.htm)[*he offered*](https://biblehub.com/greek/4374.htm)[*them*](https://biblehub.com/greek/846.htm)[*money.*](https://biblehub.com/greek/5536.htm) *“Give me this power as well,” he said, “so that everyone on whom I lay my hands may receive the Holy Spirit.”*  Acts 8:17-18

The Holy Ghost was as yet fallen upon none of these coverts, in the extraordinary powers conveyed by the descent of the Spirit upon the day of Pentecost. We may take encouragement from this example, in praying to God to give the renewing graces of the Holy Ghost to all for whose spiritual welfare we are concerned; for that includes all blessings. No man can give the Holy Spirit by the laying on of his hands; but we should use our best endeavors to instruct those for whom we pray. Simon Magus was ambitious to have the honor of an apostle but cared not at all to have the spirit and disposition of a Christian. He was more desirous to gain honor to himself, than to do good to others. Peter shows him his crime. He esteemed the wealth of this world, as if it would answer for things relating to the other life, and would purchase the pardon of sin, the gift of the Holy Ghost, and eternal life. This was such a condemning error as could by no means consist with a state of grace.

Our hearts are what they are in the sight of God, who cannot be deceived. And if they are not right in his sight, our religion is vain, and will stand us in no stead. A proud and covetous heart cannot be right with God. It is possible for a man to continue under the power of sin, yet to put on a form of godliness. When tempted with money to do evil, see what a perishing thing money is, and scorn it. Think not that Christianity is a trade to live by in this world. There is much wickedness in the thought of the heart, its false notions, and corrupt affections, and wicked projects, which must be repented of, or we are undone. But it shall be forgiven, upon our repentance. The doubt here is of the sincerity of Simon's repentance, not of his pardon, if his repentance was sincere.

Grant us, Lord, another sort of faith than that which made Simon wonder only and did not sanctify his heart. May we abhor all thoughts of making religion serve the purposes of pride or ambition. And keep us from that subtle poison of spiritual pride, which seeks glory to itself even from humility. May we seek only the honor which cometh from God, and help us to remember the anointing “THIS IS NOT FOR SALE,” but given by and through the power of God.