

**“This man is the
Great Power of
God!”**

Acts 8:9-13

Simon's Claims

- Practiced Sorcery in the city establishing himself as one with mystical powers
- Astonished the people of Samaria, claiming to be someone great

“They all gave heed to him because he had astonished them with his sorceries for a long time.”

Why Didn't the People Call Philip the Great Power of God?

- 2 Corinthians 4:5-6 *“We do not preach ourselves!”*
- What kind of faith in Simon did these people have? **(Subjective Faith)**
- They listened to Simon because he had entertained them for years, and we understand that **“Seeing is Believing?”**
- Romans 10:17, *“Now Faith Cometh by Hearing, and hearing by the word of God.”*

Was the Power in Philip or in the Preaching of the Gospel?

- Christians building their faith on the wrong things!
- “Restoration Movement” redefined by “Open Fellowship” doctrines
- Brotherhood doctrines based on church history, not God’s Word!,
- Debate Arguments.- (Truth decided by Precedence!)
- **Accepted “Unity in Diversity” tactics taught by Academic Speculation and established by Relative Truth!**
- “For I’m not ashamed of the gospel” Romans 1:16-17
- 1 Cor. 2:4-5, “*And my speech and my preaching were not with persuasive words of human wisdom,*”

Please Consider the Difference

Simon Acts 8:9-10

- Reputation of Mystical Powers & Ancient Wisdom
- Reputation of Astonishing the people of Samaria
- Reputation of Greatness

Philip Acts 8:12

- Preached the Church The Kingdom of God Matthew 16:18; Col. 1:13-14
- The Authority of Christ Jesus – (Christ's Name) They were Baptized Both Men and Women

Today People Seek The Wisdom of Men Above What is Written!

- 1 Corinthians 2:1-5 Paul warned them!
- John 5:30, 39-44 “Receiving honor from men” Credibility Established by Debate!
- Galatians 1:6-7, 9-10; 2:6-9 Paul knew what we see today in the Church of Christ!
- Galatians 1:8-12 “NOT ACCORDING TO MAN!” “Not with the wisdom of words”
- 1 Cor. 1:11-16 “Contentions Among You”

1 Corinthians 4:6

“Now these things, brethren, I have figuratively transferred to myself and Apollo's for your sakes, that you may learn in us not to think

(of men above that which is written KJV)

beyond what is written, that none of you may be puffed up on behalf of one against the other.”

Jesus Warned Us to Remember:

- **Matthew 7:21-23** “Not everyone that says Lord, Lord”
- **Mark 8:38** *“For whoever is ashamed of Me and My Words..”*
- **John 5:43** *“IF ANOTHER COMES IN HIS OWN NAME, HIM YOU WILL RECEIVE.”*
- **John 5:44** *“How can you believe?”*

Paul Warned Timothy

“Preach the Word”

[Not yourself!]

2 Timothy 4:2

Which will you choose today: To Be Dazzled and Entertained with the rest of the world or to be Taught through the Word of God?

(Who are you following now?)