

A Selfish Imitation of True Faith

Acts 8:9-24

January 31, 2021

Pastors seek to instill and nurture true faith in the God of grace.
But there are imitations of true faith. Types of Faith

Historical faith (Matthew 7:26; Acts 26:27-28; James 2:19)

Temporary faith (Mathew 13:20-21)

They have an awakened conscience but are not rooted in regeneration.

Saving faith

Saving faith is receiving, resting and trusting in Christ alone with a regenerate heart.

“Saving faith is “a certain conviction, wrought in the heart by the Holy Spirit, as to the truth of the gospel, and a hearty reliance (trust) on the promises of God in Christ.”

Berkhof

Simon, Who Was He? V 9-13

From the text

From tradition

Simon boasted of himself, his power, his greatness.

Philip had a better message and it was attested by greater power. v 13

Simon’s heart idol was manifestations of power.

The Word of God, Jesus Christ is the substance - not the signs.

John and Peter come from Jerusalem v 14-17

The Holy Spirit indwelled the Samaritans. (Rom 8:9; 1 Cor 12:3, 13)

If you have saving faith you have the Spirit.

Unity between Jews and Samaritans in Christ is an astonishing thing.

Why is it ironic that John is coming to Samaria? (Luke 9:51-56)

The Spirit given upon faith. (Acts 2:38; Galatians 3:2-5; Romans 8:9)

Why is the Holy Spirit delayed in this case?

Second blessing? Confirmation? Unity?

Simon's Desire v 18-19

He wanted power. Ability to control things around him.

What is "Simony?"

A Searching Rebuke and call to repentance v 20-23

Your heart is not right with God

Repent of this wickedness

Pray for Forgiveness

Simon's Response v 24

He did not pray, he asked to be prayed for.

He sought to avoid punishment, not be forgiven.

How do you know that you have true faith?