

Acts 8:5-25 **Test the Spirits**

Introduction:

Not every spirit is the Holy Spirit. There are tests which we must apply in order to distinguish between a true and false spirit. The false spirit would not be effective without false prophets. There are many false prophets who exist contrary to the teaching of Christ of which the Apostle John calls antichrist. (I John 4:1-2) John puts it this way: **“Children, it is the last hour; and just as you heard that antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have arisen; from this we know that it is the last hour. They went out from us, but they were not really of us; for if they had been of us, they would have remained with us; but they went out, in order that it might be shown that they all are not of us.”** (I John 2:18-19)

I. The Genuine Gospel

A. Samaria

1. Curious mixture
2. Accepted only the first five books of the Bible (Pentateuch)
3. Spiritual hybrid's

B. Medical facts

1. Paralyzed and demon possessed (Fredrick Leahy, “Satan Cast Out”)
Mk. 5:9; Matt. 15:22
2. The Holy Spirit inhabits us – John 16:12-15
3. Demon possession – Turn To: Eph. 6:10-18

II. The Counterfeit Gospel

A. Simon the magician – II Thess. 2:9-12

B. Characteristics of false healers:

1. Simon bewitched the people of Samaria
2. Simon was a quack physician
3. Simon followers thought he was a great power from God (Justin Martyr) Evolutionist – (Job 38:4)
4. Simon's deception revealed itself in “sorcery” (Jonathan Edwards, “Religious Affections” – II Tim. 3:8)

C. The only way out of the Counterfeit gospel

1. You must receive the Word of God – I Cor. 1:18; I Pet. 1:23
2. You must possess the Holy Spirit – Rom. 8:9

D. Questions regarding the Holy Spirit's ministry:

1. Why haven't the Samaritans receive the Holy Spirit yet? How can you become a believer without the Holy Spirit? Why are the Samaritans baptized in the name of Jesus?
2. Answers to these questions:
 - a. The Pentecost of Acts 2 is not identically repeated; however it does have on going implications. John 15:1-11
 - b. The Pentecost of Acts 2 is essentially Jewish in context.
 - c. The Samaritans had not received the Spirit yet. The Spirit's outpouring happened in stages (Acts 10:44-48; 19:1-7) (Abraham Kuyper's illustration)
 - d. Within the epistles we have established doctrine – I Cor. 12:13
 - e. Finally, to be baptized in Jesus name is sufficient. Jesus holding the same attributes as the other two persons of the God head.

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