

**Acts 8:18-25**  
**What is True Conversion?**

**Introduction:**

Within the visible church there are those who have been genuinely converted to Christ. There are also those who possess a false conversion. They make a profession of faith, become baptized and join the church. The world calls them hypocrites because they wear a mask, not revealing their true identity. Here in the gospel of Luke we have such a case in this man Simon the Sorcerer.

**I. The True Nature of Sin**

**A. Sin is not merely negative**

1. The problem of human sin is profound – v.23
2. Buying the grace of God with silver!
3. Modern psychology view of bad behavior – Rom. 8:7; 3:10-13

**B. Examples of bitterness:**

1. Esau – Gen. 25:27-34; Heb. 12:16,17; Prov. 13:15
2. Peter – Luke 22:62
3. Judas of Iscariot – Matt. 27:5
4. Politics

**C. God's View of Sin**

1. Destruction and perishing – v.20; John 3:16
2. God hates sin – Hab. 1:13; I John 1:5; Eze. 18:4; Rom. 1:16

**II. The True Nature of Conversion**

**A. There must be a new heart – II Cor. 5:17; II Pet. 1:3,4**

1. Peter's sharp rebuke – v.21
2. A honest and good heart – Luke 8:15

**B. There must be the indwelling of the Holy Spirit**

1. Simon was devoid of the Holy Spirit – v.19
2. Simon was devoid of humility – I Cor. 15:9; I Thess. 1:9
3. Simon was devoid of repentance – v.22 **Turn To: James 4:6-10**