

# Modern-day Simons

By Tony Melton

Simon was a powerful sorcerer living in the first century (Acts 8:1-24). He had deceived the people of Samaria for years with his false miracles. The people were saying, “This man is the great power of God” (Acts 8:10). Simon had completely deceived them.

Later, the people of Samaria saw the true miracles of God performed by Philip the evangelist. This ended their attachment to the magic arts of Simon, and then they were baptized into Christ (Acts 8:12). This man of God so impressed Simon by his miracles that he abandoned the magic arts and became a Christian. All the people recognized a great difference between the false miracles of Simon and the signs and wonders of God.

Today, modern-day Simons are still deceiving the people. The miracles of the Bible are very different from those claimed by modern religionists. For example notice the following:

1. Jesus raised a man who had been dead four days (John 11:38-44).
2. The apostles healed a man crippled for 40 years (Acts 3:1-9; 4:22).
3. A snake bit an apostle and he was not harmed (Acts 28:3-6).
4. Many spoke in other languages without studying them (Acts 2:1-4; 1 Corinthians 14).

All these Bible miracles, and many others, were accomplished immediately or instantaneously. They were not like the so-called miracles of today. Preachers today claim to cure kidney problems, stomach or headaches or back problems. Why do they not cure a blind or deaf person, heal a cripple, or restore a lost arm or raise the dead? The answer is very simple—they cannot do it! One thing that all modern-day “miracles” have in common is that they leave doubts in the minds of those who see them. The modern “miracles” are always some sort of “healing” that can never be validated.

Simon could not do it, and individuals today are like Simon. They can deceive people into believing they are the “great power of God.” But their false miracles do not even remotely compare with God’s miracles found in the Bible.