

Baggage in the Life of a Christian

From Their Past, Especially Those That Have Known

THE DEPTHS OF SATAN

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Case One: Simon the Sorcerer:

Acts 8:5-25, “Then Philip went down to the city of Samaria, and preached Christ unto them. And the people with one accord gave heed unto those things which Philip spake, hearing and seeing the miracles which he did. For **unclean spirits**, crying with loud voice, **came out of many** that were **possessed with them**: and many taken with palsies, and that were lame, were healed. And there was great joy in that city. But there was **a certain man**, called **Simon**, which **beforetime in the same city used sorcery**, and **bewitched** the people of Samaria, giving out that himself was some great one: To whom they all gave heed, from the least to the greatest, saying, This man is the great power of God. And to him they had regard, because that **of long time he had bewitched them with sorceries**. But when they believed Philip preaching the things concerning the kingdom of God, and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women. Then **Simon himself believed also**: and when he was baptized, he continued with Philip, and wondered, beholding the miracles and signs which were done. Now when the apostles which were at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent unto them Peter and John: Who, when they were come down, prayed for them, that they might receive the Holy Ghost: (For as yet he was fallen upon none of them: only they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.) Then laid they their hands on them, and they received the Holy Ghost. And **when Simon saw that through laying on of the apostles' hands the Holy Ghost was given, he offered them money**, Saying, **Give me** also this **power**, that on whomsoever **I** lay hands, he may receive the Holy Ghost. But Peter said unto him, **Thy money perish with thee**, because thou hast thought that **the gift of God may be purchased with money**. Thou hast **neither part nor lot in this matter**: for **thy heart is not right in the sight of God**. Repent therefore of this **thy wickedness**, and pray God, if perhaps **the thought of thine heart may be forgiven thee**. For I perceive that **thou art in the gall of bitterness, and in the bond of iniquity**. Then answered Simon, and said, **Pray ye to the Lord for me, that none of these things which ye have spoken come upon me**. And they, when they had testified and preached the word of the Lord, returned to Jerusalem, and preached the gospel in many villages of the Samaritans.”

Simon had baggage in his life from the power of his sorcery: he wanted power like he had before. This is very dangerous for the Christian: when Peter said that his money perish with him, he was speaking physically, not that his soul would perish, else the money also was spiritual: this means that just because you have baggage does not mean you will lose your salvation: this goes along with the law of sowing and reaping. Simon's heart had baggage because he was bitter that he was not like he was before: "...giving out that himself was some great one: To whom they all gave heed, from the least to the greatest, saying, This man is the great power of God. And to him they had regard..." He became a small person before everyone. We are all like this to some degree: creatures of habit. He was use to

this because it says he had been doing this for a long time. It is imperative therefore that IF you do have baggage; that you MUST recognize it and deal with it.

Case Two: Barjesus or Elymas the Sorcerer:

Acts 13:5, “And when they were at Salamis, they preached the word of God in the synagogues of the Jews: and they had also John to their minister. And when they had gone through the isle unto Paphos, they found a **certain sorcerer, a false prophet**, a Jew, whose name was **Barjesus**: Which was **with the deputy** of the country, **Sergius Paulus**, a prudent man; who called for Barnabas and Saul, and **desired to hear the word of God**. But **Elymas the sorcerer** (for so is his name by interpretation) **withstood them, seeking to turn away the deputy from the faith**. Then Saul, (who also is called Paul,) filled with the Holy Ghost, set his eyes on him, And said, O **full of all subtilty and all mischief, thou child of the devil, thou enemy of all righteousness**, wilt thou not cease to **pervert the right ways of the Lord**? And now, behold, the hand of the Lord is upon thee, and thou shalt be **blind**, not seeing the sun **for a season**. And immediately there fell on him **a mist and a darkness**; and he went about seeking some to lead him by the hand. Then **the deputy**, when he **saw what was done, believed**, being astonished at the doctrine of the Lord.”

In this case it is the Deputy Sergius Paulus was being turned away from the faith by Elymas the sorcerer. The difficulty that Sergius had was that there was a subtilty and mischievousness infiltration done from this sorcerer who is said to be a child of the devil and enemy of all righteousness who perverted the right ways of the Lord. Saul (Paul) put the hand of the Lord on him for darkness and blindness because of his spiritual blindness for a witness to Sergius so that he would believe the truth and know this sorcerer to be a false prophet in fact. The baggage looks to be averted in this case in Sergius Paulus, but not in Elymas who withstood the preaching.

Because the blindness on this Elymas was for a season: it is possible he came to believe later, and would also have issues like Simon the sorcerer had. The fact remains that many Christians have baggage from their past and if not dealt with will create more baggage in their Christianity, causing them to constantly backslide or remain in a state of failure and never grow in the Lord.

Case Three: You Need To Do Some Very Important Things:

1. **Set your affections on things above:** Colossians 3:1-7, “If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth. For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God. When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory. Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and covetousness, which is idolatry: For which things' sake the wrath of God cometh on the children of disobedience: In the which ye also walked some time, when ye lived in them.”
2. **Rejoice ALWAYS:** Philippians 4:4, “Rejoice in the Lord alway: and again I say, Rejoice.”
3. **Moderation** in things of this world, by **prayer** and **thanksgiving**: Philippians 4:5-7, “Let your moderation be known unto all men. The Lord is at hand. Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.

And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.”

4. **Think on THESE THINGS:** Philippians 4:8-9, “Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things. Those things, which ye have both learned, and received, and heard, and seen in me, do: and the God of peace shall be with you.”
5. **Increase your knowledge** of God and Jesus our Lord: 2 Peter 1:2-4, “Grace and peace be multiplied unto you through the knowledge of God, and of Jesus our Lord, According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue: Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.”
6. You have been given **Exceeding Great and Precious Promises**, being **Partakers of the Divine Nature**. You **MUST** give **DILIGENCE** to **add to your faith**: 2 Peter 1:5-8, “And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness; And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity. For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.”
7. The baggage remains **if you do NOT do these things above**: 2 Peter 1:9, “But he that lacketh these things is blind, and cannot see afar off, and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins.”
8. **Give Diligence and Remember to do these things** and you shall never fall: 2 Peter 1:10-12, “Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall: For so an entrance shall be ministered unto you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Wherefore I will not be negligent to put you always in remembrance of these things, though ye know them, and be established in the present truth.”
9. **Remember we are AT WAR in ENEMY territory**. 1 Peter 2:11, “Dearly beloved, I beseech you as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul;” **and** 2 Corinthians 4:1-7, Therefore seeing we have this ministry, as we have received mercy, we faint not; But have renounced the hidden things of dishonesty, not walking in craftiness, nor handling the word of God deceitfully; but by manifestation of the truth commending ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God. But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost: In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them. For we preach not ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord; and ourselves your servants for Jesus' sake. For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us.”
10. **We war our own flesh but not after the flesh**: 2 Corinthians 10:2-6. “But I beseech you, that I may not be bold when I am present with that confidence, wherewith I think to be bold against some, which think of us as if we walked according to the flesh. For though we walk in the

flesh, we do not war after the flesh: (For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;) Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ; And having in a readiness to revenge all disobedience, when your obedience is fulfilled.”

11. It is **Imperative** that you **Put On The Whole Armour of God**; equipped with **all seven armaments**: Ephesians 6:10-18, “Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God: Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;”
- a. “...loins girt about with truth...” Belt and Garment
 - b. “...the breastplate of righteousness...” Breastplate and Robe or Cape.
 - c. “...feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace...” A readiness to give out the gospel.
 - d. “...Above all, taking the shield of faith...” Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the word of God.
 - e. “...the helmet of salvation...” Without salvation you cannot get into this battle and cannot be equipped to fight.
 - f. “...the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God...” This is the Spirit of Truth that bears witness to the word of God you have in your hands: The Bible.
 - g. “...Praying always with all prayer and supplication...” These are the leg grieves as this soldier is on his knees praying for protection for himself and his fellow soldiers.
12. **Become a Soldier of the Lord strive for the Masteries**: 2 Timothy 2:1-5, “Thou therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also. Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life; that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier. And if a man also strive for masteries, yet is he not crowned, except he strive lawfully.”

Ephesians 6:10-13, “Finally, my brethren, **be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might**. Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against **the wiles of the devil**. For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against **principalities**, against **powers**, against **the rulers of the darkness of this world**, against **spiritual wickedness in high places**. Wherefore take unto you **the whole armour of God**, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and **having done all, to stand**.”

The End