



THE CHALLENGES OF DISCIPLESHIP

ACTS 8:18-24

Dr. Mike Fabarez • Focal Point Radio Ministries • May 15 & 16, 2021 • Acts, week 39 • Msg. 21-18

Acts 8:18 Now when Simon saw that the Spirit was given through the laying on of the apostles' hands, he offered them money, **19** saying, "Give me this power also, so that anyone on whom I lay my hands may receive the Holy Spirit."

20 But Peter said to him, "May your silver perish with you, because you thought you could obtain the gift of God with money!

21 You have neither part nor lot in this matter, for your heart is not right before God.

22 Repent, therefore, of this wickedness of yours, and pray to the Lord that, if possible, the intent of your heart may be forgiven you. **23** For I see that you are in the gall of bitterness and in the bond of iniquity."

24 And Simon answered, "Pray for me to the Lord, that nothing of what you have said may come upon me."
(ESV)

1. Fully _____ (vv.18-19)

2. Clearly _____ (vv.20-21)

3. Sincerely _____ (vv.22-24)

Application Questions

These questions are provided for your further study and application of today's sermon. Thoughtfully writing out the answers to these questions will help to drive home the point of today's study. It is also helpful when you are able to discuss your answers with others.

1. Read **1 Corinthians 10:1-13**. Why is vigilance in the Christian life necessary? What would you say to someone who says this topic is not that important because we are saved by grace and not by works of righteousness?
2. Read **Hebrews 3:12-19**. How can a church's community mindset that doesn't want to hurt anyone's feelings, or doesn't want to "be the Holy Spirit in anyone's life" end up being injurious to people within the church community?
3. Read **Hebrews 12:12-17**. How can you heighten a sense of godly sympathy toward those who are losing battles with temptation? How can empathy become an excuse for not getting involved?
4. Read **2 Timothy 4:1-5**. What aspects of this passage motivate you to never think the work is over just because someone has made a profession of faith in Christ?
5. Read **Psalms 32**. What positive and joyful motivations in this passage can prompt you to care enough about other professing Christians to instruct them in the way they should go?

This Week's Bible Reading Schedule

May 16th

2Kgs.15-17 & Jn.6:1-21

May 17th

2Kgs.18-19 & Jn.6:22-44

May 18th

2Kgs.20-22 & Jn.6:45-71

May 19th

2Kgs.23-25 & Jn.7:1-31

May 20th

1Chr.1-2 & Jn.7:32-53

May 21st

1Chr.3-5 & Jn.8:1-20

May 22nd

1Chr.6-7 & Jn.8:21-36

May 23rd

1Chr.8-10 & Jn.8:37-59

The following related sermons are also available for downloading or streaming on the Focal Point Website and App (FocalPointMinistries.org).

Msg. 17-10 – **Caring for the Wandering Sheep of Your Church**

Msg. 13-30 – **Apostasy & Stumbling Saints**

Msg. 08-32 – **Making Sure You're Repentant**

Msg. 13-13 – **Managing Your Ambitions**

Msg. 18-24 – **Pain & Temptation**

Msg. 13-11 – **Our Enticements & Christ's Sinlessness**

Msg. 13-12 – **Curbing Your Appetites**

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Here are some books which may assist you in a deeper study of the truths presented in today's sermon. While Pastor Mike cannot endorse every concept presented in each book, he does believe these resources will be helpful in profitably thinking through today's topic.

Blomberg, Craig L. **Neither Poverty nor Riches: A Biblical Theology of Possessions**. InterVarsity Press, 1999.

Bunyan, John. **A Treatise of the Fear of God**. Reprint. CreateSpace, 2011.

Kistler, Don. **Trust and Obey: Obedience and the Christian**. Soli Deo Gloria Ministries, 1997.

Lewis, C. S. **The Screwtape Letters**. Barbour Publishing, 1990.

Love, Christopher. **The Mortified Christian**. Reprint. Soli Deo Gloria Publications, 1998.

Mack, Wayne A. **Humility: The Forgotten Virtue**. P & R Publishing, 2005.

Miller, C. John. **Repentance and the 20th Century Man**. Christian Literature Crusade, 1975.

Needham, David. **Alive for the First Time: A Fresh Look at the New Birth Miracle**. Multnomah Press, 1995.

Owen, John. **Overcoming Sin & Temptation**. Crossway Books, 2006.

Packer, J. I. **A Quest for Godliness**. Crossway Books, 1994.

Reed, Gerard. **C. S. Lewis Explores Vice and Virtue**. Beacon Hill Press, 2001.

Ryle, J. C. **Regeneration: What It Means and Why It's Necessary**. Christian Focus, 2003.

Scroggie, W. Graham. **Tested by Temptation**. Pickering & Inglis Ltd., 1923.

Smith, William P. **How to Love Difficult People: Receiving and Sharing God's Mercy**. NG Press, 2008.