

*Jesus told us long ago that "Man shall not live by bread alone" [Luke 4:4], but we have paid no heed. We have gone on stuffing ourselves with bread of every description. We have stuffed until we are sick.*

*Billy Graham*

The effect of the peace that passes all understanding<sup>1</sup> is clear in the lives of most of those who follow the Christ. But there were always those for whom it was never enough.

When the Comforter came and shared His power with those specially chosen, He gave them also the power to pass it on to others as they saw fit. Like anything God gives us, it was not to be used for our own benefit, but in a way that would serve others.

Simon, the one called the Sorcerer, saw the power being distributed by the laying on of hands<sup>2</sup> and foolishly asked to buy this opportunity<sup>3</sup>. He seemed to understand the greatness of the Grace being offered, but he just did not see the real value of its Goodness. He obviously was not satisfied with it, and wanted more; he could not be satisfied with "mere" Truth.

Many of those who are overcome by false teaching also have this need for something more. There is a thirst for new things that approached an addiction to strong drink or to the thrill of combat. But we are promised everything that we need in order to follow Him<sup>4</sup>.

There is a sort of spiritual greed that we can have which proves very counterproductive. For example, Elisha's servant wanted to profit through the power of God in healing the foreign military leader Naaman<sup>5</sup>. Being the conduit of power should be enough for any of God's people. We should want no more than to be a servant.

The temptations of Christ had as their core the hope by the Evil One that Christ wanted more as well. He was offered food, power, and glory; but then He had humbled Himself absolutely because His Love for us allowed Him to let go of such things. And so it is said that on another day every knee will bow<sup>6</sup>. He knew from the beginning the true value of Good, and its power to completely fulfill the needs of the loving heart. We also need to realize that just a speck of this power can satisfy us forever<sup>7</sup>.

1. Philippians 4:7

2. Acts 8:17

3. Acts 8:18-19

4. 2 Corinthians 9:8

5. 2 Kings 5:22

6. Philippians 2:5-11

7. see Psalm 84:10