



Acts 8:18 And when Simon saw that through laying on of the apostles' hands the Holy Ghost was given, he offered them money,

Simon saw or heard something after the apostles laid their hands on people. What? Offering money for religious power or authority is evil.



19 Saying, Give me also this power, that on whomsoever I lay hands, he may receive the Holy Ghost.

Some people want power badly and they're willing to spend money to get it. We can be sure that Simon's intentions were greedy. There are many people that use religion to make a profit for themselves. They sell the gospel instead of giving it freely. These kinds of preachers are always begging for money. Churches need money to operate, but they give what they have for free.



20 But Peter said unto him, Thy money perish with thee, because thou hast thought that the gift of God may be purchased with money.

God's gift was meant to be given through holy people dedicated to God. Simon was evil because he wanted to make the giving of the Holy Ghost a business. He was like the Money Changers. **(Matthew 21:12-13)**



21 Thou hast neither part nor lot in this matter: for thy heart is not right in the sight of God.

The Bible does not say if Simon received the Holy Ghost but he definitely saw or heard something that was supernatural. Immediately, Peter perceived a bad spirit within Simon. A person who is right with God would never want to sell God's gift.



22 Repent therefore of this thy wickedness, and pray God, if perhaps the thought of thine heart may be forgiven thee.

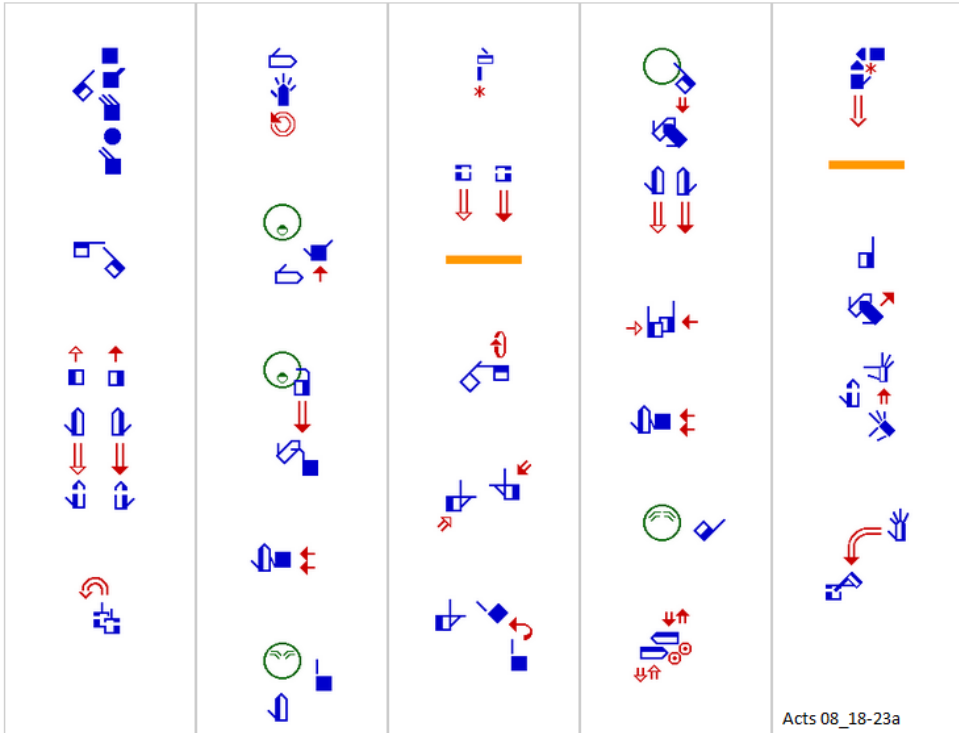
Thoughts are important to God as well as our actions. **(2Co 10:5)** The Lord wants our thinking to be pure as well as our actions.



23 For I perceive that thou art in the gall of bitterness, and in the bond of iniquity.

Peter did not at first realize Simon had not fully repented. Possibly Simon had never really accepted Christ or possibly he quickly fell back into sin. **(Acts 8:13)** says he believed and was baptized. Perhaps it was only a public profession but not one of the heart?

God's gift, the Holy Ghost, is not something we can buy, use as a toy, or just an experience but God's power given to disciples who dedicate their lives to Him. **(Acts 5:32)**



Acts 08_18-23a

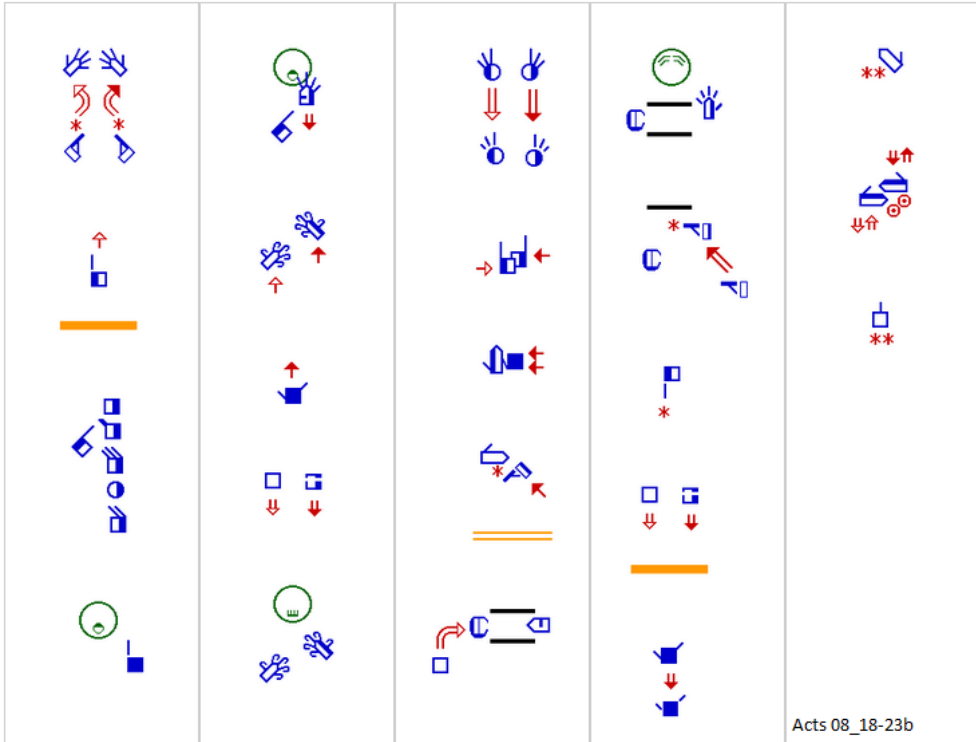
Who:
Peter, Simon, new believers

Where:
Samaria, Israel

When:
After the Day of Pentecost,
before Saul's conversion

Why:
Samaritan believers needed
the Holy Ghost.
God's power is holy.

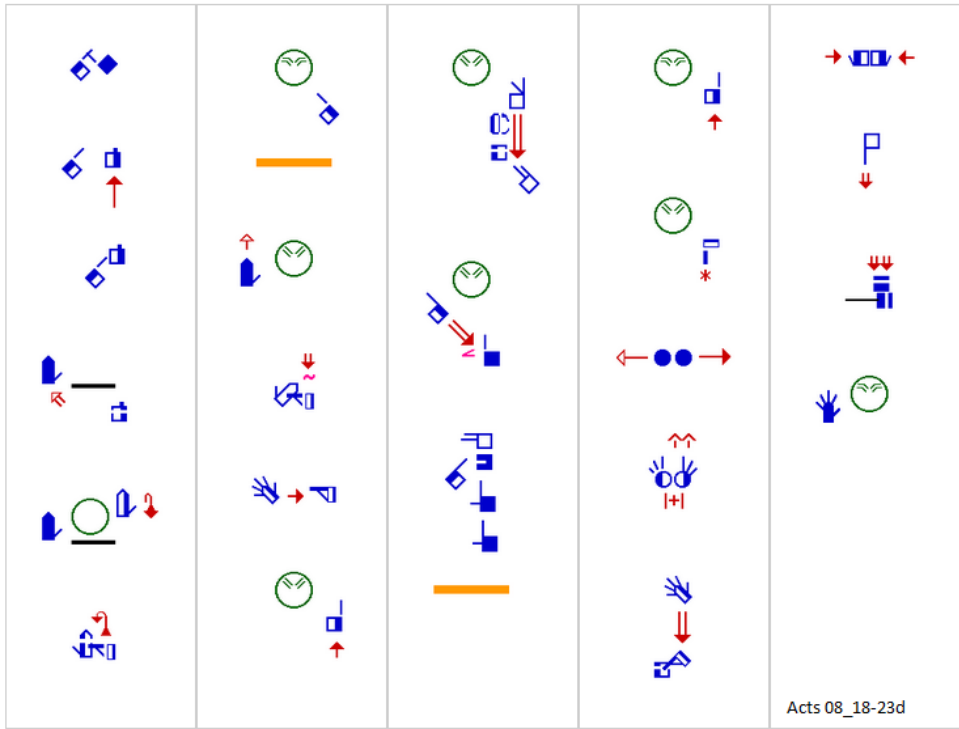
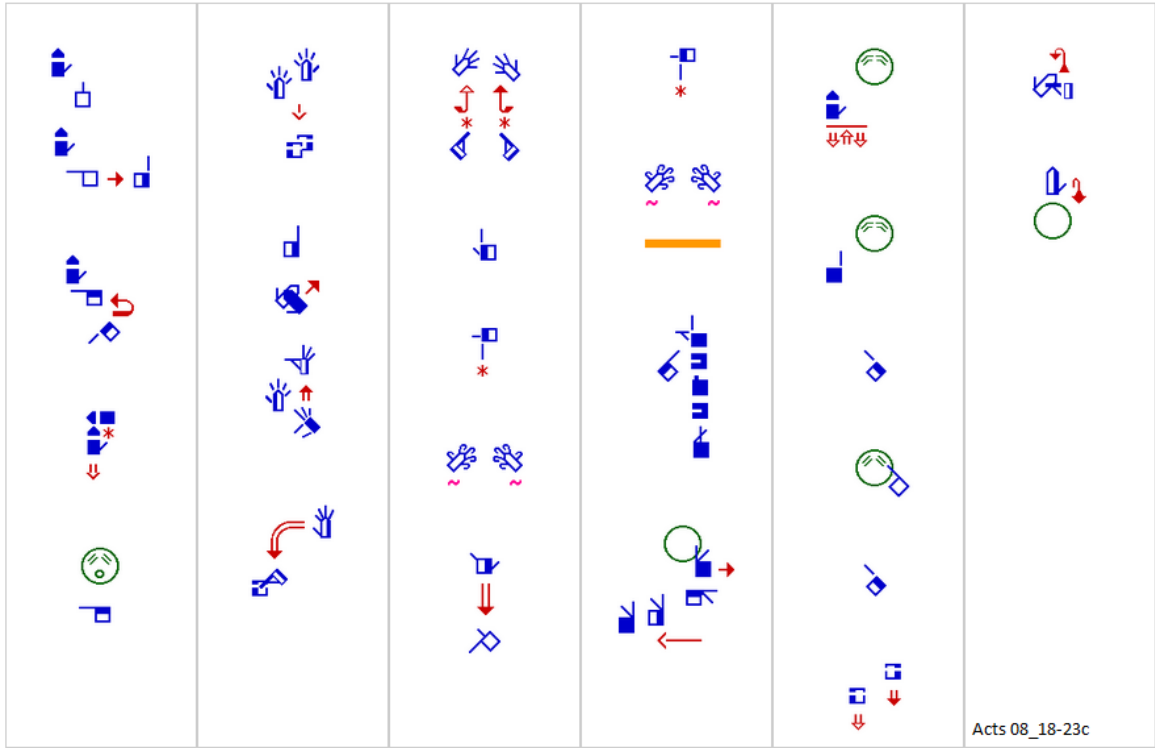
How:
Peter rebuked Simon for
thinking the power of the
Holy Ghost can be bought.

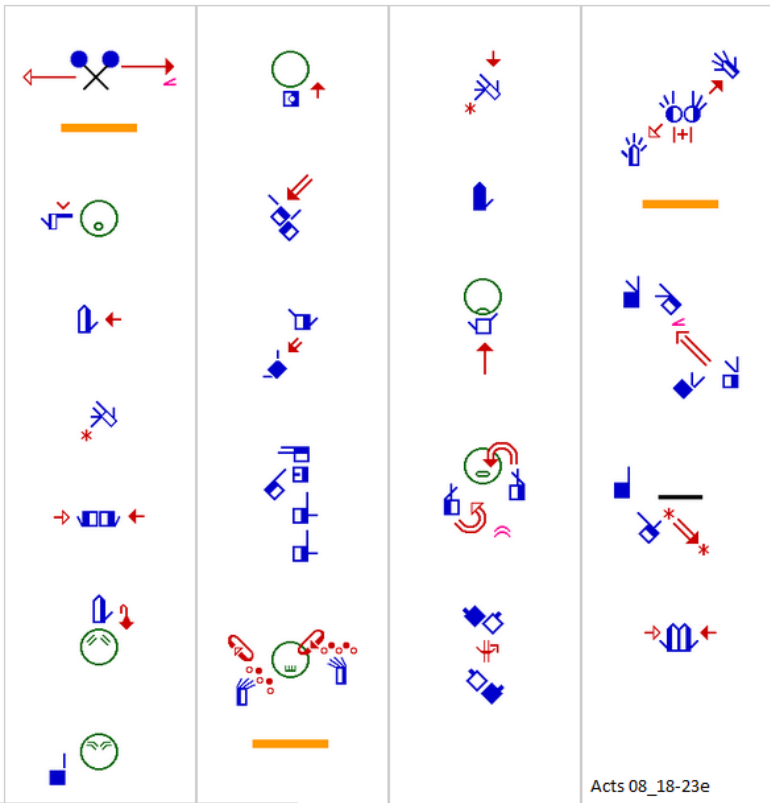


Acts 08_18-23b

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