

Church Bulletin

THE CONTROLS OF SORCERY: Understanding True Power in the Kingdom of God

Welcome & Announcements

We welcome you today as we explore a crucial spiritual truth. May the Holy Spirit grant us wisdom and discernment as we learn to distinguish true divine power from spiritual counterfeits.

Today's Main Scripture: Acts 8:9-11

Key Quote: *"Not every miracle is from God. The greatest deception is when darkness performs wonders and calls itself light."*

Sermon Outline

1. The Biblical Blueprint: Simon the Sorcerer

- How counterfeit power mimics true anointing
- Why signs alone cannot validate ministry

2. Recognizing Modern Spiritual Controls

- The shift from Christ-centered to personality-centered faith
- Four warning signs of unhealthy spiritual influence

3. Pathway to Freedom

- Cultivating Holy Spirit dependence
- Testing every spirit by God's Word
- Prayer of deliverance and release

Reflection Questions for Small Groups

1. Have you encountered ministries that emphasized personality over Christ? What were the indicators?
2. How can we cultivate discernment without becoming suspicious of all spiritual manifestations?

3. What practical steps can we take to ensure our faith remains centered on Christ alone?
4. How does the prayer of deliverance apply to areas of your life that may have experienced spiritual manipulation?

Key Takeaways for Personal Application

✓ DISCERNMENT OVER SPECTACLE

- Miracles alone don't validate ministry
- Test the fruit, not just the gifts

✓ DEPENDENCY ON CHRIST, NOT PEOPLE

- Your breakthrough comes from Jesus, not a person
- Your access to God needs no human mediator

✓ WORD + SPIRIT = TRUTH

- Bible study needs Holy Spirit illumination
- Without the Spirit, the letter can deceive

✓ FREEDOM IS THE TRUE FRUIT

- God's power liberates; sorcery controls
- True ministry produces love, joy, peace, not fear and obligation

This Week's Challenge

1. **Examine:** Review your spiritual influences. Do they point you to Christ or to themselves?
2. **Pray:** Daily invite the Holy Spirit to be your Teacher and Guide.
3. **Test:** Apply 1 John 4:1 to teachings you receive.
4. **Declare:** Speak freedom over areas where you've felt spiritually controlled.
 - **Sunday:** Guest Minister - "The True Nature of Kingdom Power"

Closing Benediction

"May you walk in the glorious liberty of the children of God. May the Word dwell in you richly and the Holy Spirit be your constant guide. May you know the true power of His Kingdom—the power that liberates, heals, and sets captives free. Amen."

"You will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." - John 8:32