

# Acts 8:10

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

To whom they all gave heed, from the least to the greatest, saying, This man is the great power of God.

## Analysis

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The Samaritans called Simon 'the great power of God' - an idolatrous attribution of divine glory to a mere man. This reveals humanity's readiness to worship anything but the true God. The phrase may suggest Simon claimed to be a divine emanation or the manifestation of God's power on earth. From a Reformed perspective, this demonstrates mankind's religious impulse misdirected toward false objects of worship. Only the gospel's power could break this deception and turn hearts to the true God.

## Historical Context

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Early church fathers (Justin Martyr, Irenaeus) wrote of Simon Magus as the father of Gnosticism and heresies. Whether this is the same Simon is debated, but his influence was significant enough that Luke records the Samaritans' exalted view of him.

## Related Passages

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**Genesis 1:1** — Creation of heavens and earth

**Psalms 19:1** — Heavens declare God's glory

## Study Questions

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1. Why are humans so ready to worship created things rather than the Creator?
2. How do false teachers gain influence by claiming divine authority or power?
3. What protects believers from deception by those claiming divine status?

## Interlinear Text

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ὧ	προσεῖχον	πάντες	ἀπὸ	μικροῦ	ἕως	Μεγάλη	
To whom	<b>gave heed</b>	<b>they all</b>	<b>from</b>	<b>the least</b>	<b>to</b>	<b>the great</b>	
G3739	G4337	G3956	G575	G3398	G2193	G3173	
λέγοντες	Οὗτός	ἐστιν	ἡ	δύναμις	τοῦ	θεοῦ	ἡ
<b>saying</b>	<b>This man</b>	<b>is</b>	G3588	<b>power</b>	G3588	<b>of God</b>	G3588
G3004	G3778	G2076		G1411		G2316	

Μεγάλη

the great

G3173

## Additional Cross-References

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**Jeremiah 31:34** (Parallel theme): And they shall teach no more every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know the LORD: for they shall all know me, from the least of them unto the greatest of them, saith the LORD: for I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.

**Revelation 13:3** (Parallel theme): And I saw one of his heads as it were wounded to death; and his deadly wound was healed: and all the world wondered after the beast.

**2 Peter 2:2** (Parallel theme): And many shall follow their pernicious ways; by reason of whom the way of truth shall be evil spoken of.