

# SIMON JOINS THE CHURCH

## ACTS 8:13

*How did you see God working in your life this week? (Romans 1:11, 12)*

BACKGROUND: Going to church and being baptized does not make you a Christian just as going into a garage does not make you a car. You must have Christ's life in you. You must be born again. (John 3:3-7, 16, fn 3:16[3<sup>rd</sup>])

**HE "BELIEVED."** Believe here is the Greek word *pisteuo*)—to have faith in, or trust. (Strong's #4100) It is the idea of hope and certain expectations. What is implied from the context is that the basis for Simon's belief was his own selfish expectation, not the belief that rests on the promises and character of God. Spiros Zodhiates, Complete Word Study Dictionary: New Testament, pp 1160, 1161. (Acts 8:13, 18-21, John 17:3, fn 17:3, John 3:17-21, fn 3:19-21, James 2:14-19, fn 2:14) *How would you explain faith that saves to your family?*

**HE WAS BAPTIZED.** To baptize (Strong's #907) is "to immerse in or wash with water in token of purification from sin and spiritual pollution." Zodhiates, p. 310. Baptism is an earthly expression of a spiritual reality. (Acts 8:13, I Peter 3:20, 21, fn 3:21, Romans 6:3-7, fn 6:1-4) *What is the purpose of baptism and when should it be done?*

**HE ATTENDED CHURCH.** Wherever Philip went and the church met, there went Simon. Unlike Philip, Simon was seeking the ability to glorify himself. "We cannot at the same time show that we are clever and that Jesus is wonderful." James Denney, William Barclay, The Acts of the Apostles, p. 77. (Acts 8:13b, 19, fn 8:18-23, Jeremiah 9:23, 24, fn 9:23, 24, Genesis 3:5, fn 3:5[2<sup>nd</sup>], II Corinthians 4:5, fn 4:5[1<sup>st</sup>], Hebrews 10:24, 25, fn 10:25) *What need in your life does fellowship with other believers meet?*

*Pray for one another's needs.*

*Who in your group needs your encouragement by phone or personal attention?*