

# Acts 8:13

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then Simon himself believed also: and when he was baptized, he continued with Philip, and wondered, beholding the miracles and signs which were done.

## Analysis

Simon 'believed also' and was baptized - but verses 18-23 would reveal his heart remained unchanged. This raises the distinction between genuine saving faith and intellectual assent. Simon's continued amazement at miracles suggests attraction to power rather than submission to Christ as Lord. Reformed theology distinguishes between temporary faith (James 2:19) and true saving faith that perseveres. Simon's profession was outward only, as Peter later discerns his heart remains 'in the gall of bitterness' (v.23). Not all who profess and are baptized possess genuine faith.

## Historical Context

Simon's case became a cautionary example in church history about false profession. The term 'simony' (buying church office) derives from Simon's later attempt to purchase apostolic power, indicating his mercenary heart.

## Related Passages

**John 3:16** — God's love and salvation

**Romans 10:9** — Confession and belief for salvation

**Romans 1:17** — The righteous shall live by faith

## Study Questions

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1. How do we distinguish genuine saving faith from intellectual assent or false profession?
2. What does Simon's case teach about the limits of outward religious actions?
3. Why does fascination with miracles sometimes indicate an unregenerate heart?

## Interlinear Text

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ό	δὲ	Σίμων	καὶ	αὐτὸς	ἐπίστευσεν	καὶ
G3588	Then	Simon	also	himself	believed	also
G1161		G4613	G2532	G846	G4100	G2532
βαπτισθεὶς			ἥν	προσκαρτερῶν		τῷ
when he was baptized			he continued	G4342		G3588
			G2258			Φιλίппῳ
						with Philip
						G5376
θεωρῶν	τε	σημεῖα	καὶ	δυνάμεις	μεγάλας	γινομένας
beholding	and	signs	also	the miracles	G3173	which were done
G2334	G5037	G4592	G2532	G1411		G1096
ἐξίστατο						
wondered						
G1839						

## Additional Cross-References

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**Acts 19:11** (Parallel theme): And God wrought special miracles by the hands of Paul:

**John 5:20** (Parallel theme): For the Father loveth the Son, and sheweth him all things that himself doeth: and he will shew him greater works than these, that ye may marvel.

