

then, those who had received his word were baptized; and there were added that day about three thousand souls."

No doubt these three thousand persons made profession of their repentance and trust in Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of their sins, and on this basis they were baptized, and became identified as disciples of Christ.

- (c) Acts 8:1-13, 18-24 -- "But when they believed Philip preaching the good news about the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were being baptized, men and women alike. And even Simon himself believed; and after being baptized, he continued on with Philip; and as he observed signs and great miracles taking place, he was constantly amazed Now when Simon saw that the Spirit was bestowed through the laying on of the apostles' hands, he offered them money, saying, 'Give this authority to me as well, as that everyone on whom I lay my hands may receive the Holy Spirit.' But Peter said to him, 'May your silver perish with you, because you thought you could obtain the gift of God with money! You have no part or portion in this matter, for your heart is not right before God. Therefore repent of this wickedness of yours, and pray the Lord that if possible, the intention of your heart may be forgiven you. For I see that you are in the gall of bitterness and in the bondage of iniquity.' But Simon answered and said, 'Pray to the Lord for me yourselves, so that nothing of what you have said may come upon me.' "

These people of Samara believed, i.e., made profession of their faith in the gospel of Jesus Christ; and they were baptized on the basis of that profession. They became identified as disciples of Christ. Simon the magician also believed, i.e., made profession of his faith in Christ; and was baptized. But his profession was an empty one, for he was not a true disciple of Christ.

- (d) Acts 8:36-38 -- "And as they went along the road they came to some water; and the eunuch said, 'Look! Water! What prevents me from being baptized?' ((And Philip said, 'If you believe with all your heart, you may.' And he answered and said, 'I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God')) And he ordered the chariot to stop; and they both went down into the water, Philip as well as the eunuch; and he baptized him."

The Ethiopian eunuch professed faith in Christ and desired baptism; on the basis of his profession Philip baptized him, and he became a disciple of Christ.

- (e) Acts 18:8 -- ". . . and many of the Corinthians when they heard were believing and being baptized." On the basis of their profession the Corinthians were baptized and thus became identified with Christ as His disciples.