

10 Examples of Conversion in Acts

“Repent and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord.” (Acts 3:19)

We can be converted to Christ in the same way people were converted in the first century. As the gospel spread (recorded in the book of Acts), many people rejected the good news about Jesus. However, we also learn what *faithful* people did in response to the preaching, in 10 separate examples.

Regardless of their religious, racial, or social background, the preacher, or the circumstances, they all displayed the same response to the gospel. Each one “obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine to which [they] were delivered.” (**Romans 6:17**) It was as if God were pouring each soul into a mold (from the word “form”), and they all came out looking the same – *saved*. The apostle Paul, who is one of the 10 examples*, later said that Jesus, in His mercy, showed “all longsuffering [toward him] as a pattern to those who are going to believe on Him for everlasting life.” (**1 Timothy 1:16**)

We see this pattern develop through the 10 cases as people hear the gospel being preached and respond to the message. On the table below, read the passages for each case and write in the verse that mentions it. [You may have to make some logical assumptions. For example, Peter told the Jews to repent (**Acts 2:38**), so when they followed his other instructions (**Acts 2:41**), we can assume they also repented.]

When you finish, some of the spaces will be blank because the text simply doesn’t mention every detail of every example, but you should still see a pattern that matches what Jesus said in **Matthew 28:18-20/Mark 16:16**. It is this pattern, given 10 times, that answers, *“What must I do to be saved?”*

| Heard the gospel | Believed | Repented | Confessed | Were Baptized | Result |
|---|----------|----------|-----------|---------------|--------|
| 3000 Jews 2:1-47 | | | | | |
| Samaritans 8:5-12 | | | | | |
| Simon 8:13 | | | | | |
| Ethiopian 8:26-40 | | | | | |
| *Saul (a.k.a. Paul) 9:1-18; 22:1-16 | | | | | |
| Cornelius 10:1 - 11:18 | | | | | |
| Lydia 16:14-15 | | | | | |
| Jailer 16:25-34 | | | | | |
| Corinthians 18:8 | | | | | |
| Ephesians 19:1-7 | | | | | |

Extra Study from the 10 Examples of Conversion in Acts

| <u>Believers</u> | <u>Acts...</u> | <u>Preacher</u> | <u>Location</u> | <u>Religious Background</u> |
|--------------------|-----------------|----------------------------------|-----------------|--|
| 3000 Jews | 2:1-47 | Peter and the 12 apostles | Jerusalem | Devout Jews who had crucified Jesus |
| Samaritans | 8:5-12 | Philip the evangelist (Acts 6:5) | Samaria | Mixed race with roots in Judaism |
| Simon | 8:13 | Philip | Samaria | Practicing magic; seeking men's praise |
| Ethiopian | 8:26-40 | Philip | Wilderness | Apparently a Jewish proselyte |
| Saul | 9:1-18; 22:1-16 | Ananias | Damascus | Devout Jew persecuting Christians |
| Cornelius | 10:1 - 11:18 | Peter | Caesarea | Devout Roman; kind to Jews |
| Lydia | 16:14-15 | Paul, Silas, and Luke | Philippi | Not a Jewess; a worshiper of God |
| Jailer | 16:25-34 | Paul and Silas | Philippi | Unknown; likely pagan |
| Corinthians | 18:8 | Paul | Corinth | Mostly idolaters and immoral people |
| Ephesians | 19:1-7 | Paul | Ephesus | Disciples of John the Baptist |