

## **Philip The Evangelist** **Acts 8:26-40**

It's easy to read this section of Scripture and let your attention drift to the miraculous. It's possible to be so fascinated by the supernatural that you miss the natural. It's easy to spot the supernatural.

*An angel of the Lord spoke to Philip  
The Holy Spirit spoke to Philip  
Philip was transported to another town*

The temptation is to think ...

“If God did that for me, I could witness to anybody.”

The reverse of this type of thinking is something you definitely want to avoid...

“If God doesn't do that for me, I can't witness to anyone.”

Rather than being encouraged, we can walk away from this story feeling a bit discouraged. As in ... Philip caught all the breaks. Right time. Right place. The right man reading the right piece of Scripture. You'll never get that. Might as well not even try to evangelize. *Okay, let's see if we can find anything in here that fits into the realm of normal for the Christian.*

The Spirit told Philip, “Go and join that chariot.” (Acts 8:29)

The Holy Spirit spoke and a Christian obeyed. It is normal and natural for a Christian to not only hear the voice of the Holy Spirit but to obey the Holy Spirit. For the Christian, this is a reasonable expectation. You should expect the Holy Spirit to speak to you in ways that are clear, specific and personal.

What unfolds in this passage is presented as normal.

*The Spirit of God works through a person who belongs to God,  
who witnesses to the reality of God, using the Word of God.*

Please notice in this narration that neither the angel nor the Holy Spirit said anything to Philip about leading a guy to Christ and baptizing him. The only directive is to go to the chariot. If Philip doesn't go to the chariot, he won't get this witnessing opportunity....AND

Philip is given the freedom to take this conversation to a place of his choosing. He was directed to the chariot but he was not directed what to say. Philip can talk about anything he wants and it's on his heart to share the gospel so steps right in.

Don't miss this: In order for Philip to be the right man in the right place at the right time, he has to be obedient to the Holy Spirit ... AND ... he has to have some knowledge of Scripture. He doesn't need advanced training but he needs to understand the Biblical foundation of Christianity. Philip is a new Christian but he knows enough to introduce this man to Jesus.

What would you do in a similar situation???

Would you be **nice** and smile at the person?

Would you be **friendly** and strike up a conversation about the weather and Seahawks?

Would you be **intentional** and say...Sounds like you're reading the Bible, is that a Bible?

In the backstory of all of this is the role of the **Trinity** in salvation. Notice...

**God the Father** is involved in evangelism. This entire event is not an accident. Angels do not act independently of God. *See Psalm 103:19-20*

**God the Son** – Jesus – is involved in evangelism. Jesus is our Messiah and Savior. The one sent by God to secure the means of salvation.

**God the Spirit** (Holy Spirit) is involved in evangelism. The Spirit told Philip to go to that chariot, (Acts 8:29). The man was reading the Holy Spirit inspired Word of God, (2 Peter 1:20-21). Holy Spirit worked in this man's heart enabling him to embrace Jesus as Lord, (1 Cor 12:3).

### **Home Group Discussion Questions:**

1. In your initial reading of this passage, what captured your attention?
2. You may have heard Pastor Karl say ... The Holy Spirit speaks today and it is your reasonable expectation that He will speak to you. Does this encourage you? Confuse you? Embolden you?
3. How might the Holy Spirit lead you today? Is there a person you need to talk to or pray with? Is there a promise of Scripture that you need to believe more deeply? Is there an adjustment to your lifestyle that you need to make?
4. Review the "Gospel in Four Words" based on John 3:16. God – People – Jesus – Response. Is there any piece of this that you would like more clarification on? Knowing that you don't have to share a full presentation to witness to people for Jesus, is there is piece of the gospel that you think is easiest to discuss with people? Hardest to discuss with people?
5. Pastor Karl made the point that God as Trinity is intimately involved in the process of salvation. Does this indicate anything to you about how much God wanted you in His family?

### **Family Discipleship:**

Get out a recipe or cake mix and make it together. Talk about following the directions and what might happen if you skipped a step or ingredient.

Read Acts 8:26-40

1. Who told Philip what to do? Vs 26
2. What did Philip do?
3. What might have happened if Philip didn't immediately obey?
4. How do we know what God's instructions are?
5. The man in the chariot was reading the bible and had questions about it. What did Philip tell him about? Vs. 35
6. What is the good news about Jesus we can tell others?
7. Who can we tell?