

Why Church?

Part 4 - Sharing the Love

We are responding to God's call on our church to be released into a missional life for the glory of God. We desire that the Good News spreads far and wide through us as a church family compelled by God's love.

Blown by the Spirit – Acts 8:25-26

The wind is an apt symbol of the sovereign direction of the Holy Spirit. He goes wherever He wills; you cannot predict Him. (John 3:8)

In Acts chapter 8 we have a beautiful picture of the Holy Spirit at work in the declaration and demonstration of the Good News.

Acts 8:25 – Three words describe the usual activity of believers.

1. **Testified** - they shared what they had experienced.
2. **Prophesied** - They spoke the word of the Lord.
3. **Preached** - they preached the gospel.

Peter and John are proceeding in an orderly way back to Jerusalem, doing the ordinary, expected things. But in the next account we have an unusual, extraordinary, unpredictable activity of the Spirit of God.

- + An angelic encounter
- + Prompt obedience
- + An unlikely encounter

Acts 8:26 – Peter and John were obeying the Holy Spirit when they testified, prophesied, and preached the Gospel. Philip is also obeying the Holy Spirit when he is being sent by an angel out to a desert place.

Intentionally leaving room for and paying attention to the Holy Spirit allows Him the freedom to move and do as He will.

A Royal Encounter - Acts 8:27-31

The Holy Spirit leads Philip to a person of influence and in command a representative of a royal family. A man who is searching for God, but he can't find Him unless someone leads him.

All the money, prestige and position will never satisfy the heart that longs for fulfilment. It is only until we meet God in Jesus Christ that our searchings for meaning are fulfilled.

Are we open to be led by the Spirit to see those who are looking for meaning and sit beside them to explain the truth?

When the chariots pull up in the parking lot of our church, or into your driveway at home, what do they find? Do they find more empty rituals that don't really satisfy their longing for a personal relationship with the Creator, or do they find the Spirit of God alive and real among genuine people of faith?

Ordinarily Amazing

- + Accessible - Philip was a layman, but he was accessible to hear what God wanted him to do. Sometimes we can be too busy for God to get our attention that we aren't accessible to obey God. What about you? Are you accessible if God wants you to do something special for him?
- + Available - Philip left the success of the revival in Samaria to go to the desert. God still needs today - men, women, of all ages who will obey without questioning.
- + Ready - Philip was ready to go where God needed him and to who God needed him. He made no excuses and obeyed the Lord immediately.

A Relevant Scripture – Acts 8:32-35

The Holy Spirit had led the Ethiopian to a passage which he could relate to yet not understand.

The passage from Isaiah 53 speaks of sacrifice and of solitude, something that this eunuch was familiar with.

Lastly the passage speaks of a saviour. Although the verse is not quoted in Acts 8, Isaiah 53:6 says, "All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned everyone to his own way, but the Lord laid on him the iniquity of us all."

This human sacrifice had died to take away sins. That's what the eunuch was looking for!

A Personal Salvation – Acts 8:36-38

This personal salvation the eunuch found involved at least two things.

1. Belief – The eunuch found the simple end to his life-long search. He simply believed the good news about Jesus and was saved.
2. Testimony – Then, he testified of his faith in Jesus by being baptised.

We are promised when we come to Jesus in faith, repenting of our sins and believing He will forgive us, that all things become new and we start over with a clean sheet before God.

That same Jesus, who saves all who call upon him, wants us to share that good news with everyone. Share the love! Chase every chariot you can find! Go up and down life's desert roads looking for people who need Jesus. Many will turn you down, but a lot of people are cruising out there with their hearts hungering for God. They're hoping somebody will be available for His Spirit to move them and obedient to God's leading. Will you obey God today? Will you share the love?

Discussion Questions

1. Is your regular life as a Christian identified by your willingness to testify, prophesy and preach about Jesus? If not, why not?
2. How can you intentionally leave room to pay attention to what Holy Spirit is saying?
3. Philip was accessible to God, available to being used by God and ready to go where God needed Him. What are barriers in your life to being more like this?
4. Share a recent testimony of being led by God to be a vessel He used to share about Jesus.
5. Pray for a greater discernment and awareness of the Holy Spirit's leading so you too might be powerfully used for God's glory.