

Acts 14 – **Rise & Go - Acts 8:26-40**

**Let me share** with you something I **haven't** shared in a long time but something forever **ETCHED** in my mind

The **first** major **spiritual attack** against this church was **especially hard** on me & my family

In fact - **the wounds** of that attack are still **very sensitive**

& **in the midst** of a battle I **found myself** asking God **WHY** did you **send us** here ??

**I know** it wasn't just to get **beat up** & be **taken out** by the enemy  
So . . . **WHY God**, WHY?

& **during** that time I **had a dream**,  
& I **don't have** many **dreams** like this

**most** of my dreams are **pure crazy**, **like** most of **yours**  
but **this one** stuck with me as a **message from God**

I saw a **living room** in an **older house**, possibly a **mobile**

**The carpet** was **multicolored** long shag from **the 70's**  
in various **shades** - of **burnt orange**

& **sitting** in the **middle** of the floor in that living room was a **young boy**  
**playing** with his **toys**, & **oblivious** to everything around him

& **God spoke** to my **heart** that night very clearly  
& He said to me ***"you're here for ONE PERSON"***

& I **wasn't clear** if it was **THAT** child, or **even** who that child was  
but **God's encouragement** to me that night was **CLEAR**

**I had come** expecting something **different** -  
but God let me know - **I brought you here for ONE PERSON!**

So **STOP worrying** about the **battles**, the **attacks**, or the **struggles**  
& **remember** you are here for **one person**,

& I've **never Forgotten** that

**Our text** today - is about God calling Philip to **RISE & GO**  
for the Benefit of **ONE PERSON**

& **so** this text **REALLY speaks** a lot to me

## **Let's Pray**

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**Last week** - Philip was **leading** a **Revival** that was off the hook

**Simon** the magician had been **defeated**  
The entire town was being **SAVED** & **HEALED** & **DELIVERED**

The **Spiritual Fruit** is **MASS PRODUCING** - - -  
& **suddenly** the Lord tells Philip - **take a hike**

Literally **TAKE A HIKE**  
to **barren place** in the middle of the **DESERT**

So Philip begins **a 60 MILE Walk** - **AWAY** from a city-wide Revival  
**toward** a lonely desert road - and **ONE** person

It **would have been** pretty easy to **get discouraged** right there

**Put yourself** in Philip's **place**. You're **not even** one of the **Twelve**,  
but **suddenly** you're leading the **First Revival** of the N.T.

& suddenly God says - RISE & GO - to the Desert ??

Maybe we would've said: ***“Lord, Have I done something wrong?  
Is there some other way we can work this out?”***

***You know - I've got an entire city being saved here,  
are you sure there's not someone else  
we can send to handle that - Desert thing***

Maybe That's how WE would've responded  
But that's NOT how Philip responded

Philip was ready to serve anywhere anytime  
& he's a WONDERFUL example - for you & I to follow

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So - Philip's got a Revival exploding in Samaria,  
& right in the midst of it - we read in

### Acts 8:26 (esv)

***26 Now an angel of the Lord said to Philip, “Rise and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.”  
This is a desert place.***

(LIT - that last sentence is ***“this is a barren or uninhabited place”***)

Hey Philip - Nice job bringing the Gospel to Samaria  
Now . . . LEAVE . . . Rise, & GO

& this was NO - ***“Take a Super Shuttle to the Airport & fly off to the Bible conference - & we'll see you next Monday”***

This was a 60 Mile WALK - It was Long, Hot, Difficult, & LONELY

Guys - **THIS** - was a **COMPLETE SURRENDER** - of **the WILL**

### **Oswald Chambers:**

*True surrender is not simply surrender of our external life but surrender of our will - and once that is done, surrender is complete.*

Philip's **WILL** was **Surrendered to God** - & so he was willing to Do **ANYTHING** - Go **ANYWHERE** that God called him

### **& so - Acts 8:27 begins (esv)**

*27 And he rose and went . . .*

Philip's *walking . . . walking . . . walking . . .*

**ALONE** - to the Dry, Hot, Barren, Desert

& then - **FINALLY** - **Imagine** how Philip's heart must've **JUMPED** **when** - in the distance - **on the horizon** - he sees . . . **PEOPLE**

It's **a caravan** - a **BIG one**

**(Acts 8:27 cont.)** . . . *And there was an Ethiopian, a eunuch, a court official of Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, who was in charge of all her treasure. He had come to Jerusalem to worship*

This was the **Secretary of the Treasury** for the Kingdom of **Ethiopia**

**Which** at that time was just **South of Egypt**

where **Northern Sudan** is today - & **North of Ethiopia** today

Now - there is **some Speculation** from **Chuck Misler** & a few others -

that this **Eunuch MIGHT HAVE** actually had the **Mercy Seat**,  
from the **Ark of the Covenant** - with him

& that he had come looking for the Messiah to give it to

There some scriptures that MAY support that idea  
But it's mostly Cool Speculation

What we do know is - this high ranking Gov't Official from Ethiopia  
an African Gentile - would've been travelling with a large Caravan

& he's returning from what could have been close to  
a THOUSAND MILE religious pilgrimage to Jerusalem

PLUS (we'll see in a minute) he has a copy of the Isaiah Scroll  
with him - so he was very serious about his pilgrimage

Which may give some credence to Chuck Misler's theory

It's also interesting that Deut 23 forbids a eunuch  
from becoming a part of the Jewish community

because they were considered "Mutilated"

However, in Isaiah 56 (which we'll see today)  
this ban is prophetically removed

saying that Eunuchs will be BLESSED by the Lord  
& it seems this Eunuch is the First to fulfill that Prophecy

& so as we continue the Narrative - We're Really FOCUSED MORE  
today On Phillip - & on HIS actions

**Acts 8:28-29 (esv)**

***28 and [the eunuch] was returning [from Jerusalem], seated in his chariot, and he was reading the prophet Isaiah.***

***29 And the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over and join this chariot."***

So there's a **KEY Gov't Official** of **Ethiopia**

Who just **HAPPENS** to be in the middle of **NO WHERE**  
**READING** the **ISAIAH SCROLL**

& **Suddenly** Phillip **FINDS HIMSELF** there  
& the Spirit **SAID** to Phillip - ***"Go over and join this chariot."***

**Let's look** at that a minute - ***And the Spirit SAID to Philip***

**The leading** of the **Holy Spirit** can sometimes be a **difficult** thing  
to **learn** - & there are **definitely people** who can take this **too far**

**I guy told me** once he was **driving** down the **freeway**  
& he **felt the Spirit** tell him to **get off** the freeway, so he **did**,

then he **felt like** he should turn **left**, & he **did**, then **right**, and he **did**,  
then **left** again, and **so on & so on**

& **after a while** he realized he was **just LOST**

& So - **we've got** to learn how to **Truly Discern**  
**the leading** of the Lord in our lives

The **Holy Spirit** speaks **differently** to **each** Spirit-Filled Believer  
& so we've got to learn **HOW** He speaks **TO US personally**

How do we **LEARN** how to be sensitive  
to what the **Holy Spirit** wants us to **DO** or **SAY** ??

The **same way** I've **learned** to be **sensitive** to what my **WIFE**  
would like me to **DO** or **SAY** . . .

By developing a **Close, Intimate relationship** with my **Wife**,  
I've come to **KNOW HER** very well

& I **can SENSE** what she would have me **DO** or **SAY**

& **we can do** the **Exact same thing** with the **Holy Spirit**

If we will **develop** a **close & intimate relationship** with the Holy Spirit  
then we will be **sensitive** to His **leading**,

& then we'll know **HOW** & **WHEN** - **to respond** to Him

& So - **because** Philip **HAD** that **relationship** with the Holy Spirit  
the **Next Verse** just came **naturally**

### **Acts 8:30 (esv)**

***30 So Philip ran to him . . .***

I **love the fact** that - the Spirit said **GO** in **V.29**  
& in **response** - Philip **RAN** to him

***. . . and heard him reading Isaiah the prophet and asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?"***

***31 And he said, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to come up and sit with him.***

This word for **GUIDE** - is the word used for **TEACHING**  
it means - ***to GUIDE someone into knowledge or understanding***

### **It's ALSO the word used in Jn 16:13**

***13 When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth . . .***

So - Right now - Philip is going to GUIDE this Eunuch

But in a minute - Philip is going to be GONE  
& the Holy Spirit is going to GUIDE this Eunuch from then on

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& Now - I really want us to notice carefully what happens next

When Christians have an opportunity to GUIDE someone to Jesus  
we very often make One of TWO HUGE MISTAKES

#1 HUGE Mistake - - We talk about OURSELVES

# 2 HUGE Mistake - - We talk about Our OWN OPINIONS  
or ACCOMPLISHMENTS

& when we do Either one of these two things  
ALL we end up really doing - is Getting in God's WAY

Philip doesn't jump in this guy's ESCALADE  
& start talking about himself

*Hey - glad to meet you - I was just at the head of this huge Revival  
in Samaria - Man, you shoulda seen me, Yeah the Lord was using  
me in A BIG WAY*

*& Hey - did you hear about the Day of Pentecost? Yeah I was in  
the Tent with Pastor Chuck on the Day of Pentecost, Yep, I was  
there . . . Saw it all*

PLEEEAAASE - Help God out a Bit - & ZIP IT !!  
#1 rule in Spirit-Led Christianity - **IT'S NOT ABOUT YOU !!**

It's about what GOD is doing  
in the life of the person you're talking to



& so - **THAT** is where we have to **START**  
& **THAT** is where we have to **STAY**  
& **THAT** is HOW God can **USE** us - in that person's life

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& so - **watch closely** - How the **Holy Spirit** Guides Philip here

**1st - we read in Acts 8:32-33 (esv)**

***32 Now the passage of the Scripture that he was reading was this:  
"Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter and like a lamb before  
its shearer is silent, so he opens not his mouth.***

***33 In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe  
his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth."***

So - The Eunuch **JUST HAPPENS** to be reading from **ISA 53**

& there may be **NO BETTER place** in all the O.T.  
**from which** to share **Jesus** with someone

But you & I both **know people** - who can take  
a **SPOON FED opportunity** like that . . .

& still manage to talk about **THEMSELVES**, Their **OPINIONS**  
& Their **ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

Guys - **the Holy Spirit** will **SET US UP** perfectly - to **USE** us  
If we'll just **CRUCIFY** our **SELF** Focus

**If we will** Simply be **QUICK** to Hear, & **SLOW** to Speak (**Jas 1:19**)

If **we will develop** a **relationship** with the Holy Spirit  
where He can actually **Lead** & **Guide** us - - **THEN** He can use us

& we certainly see THAT in our text today

As Philip shows us - what we like to call - - - The RIGHT WAY

### Acts 8:34-35 (esv)

**34 And the eunuch said to Philip, “About whom, I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?”**

**35 Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning with this Scripture he told him the good news about Jesus.**

The phrase “*Philip opened his mouth*” implies the Holy Spirit is guiding his thoughts & his words

& because Philip was “*In Tune*” with the Spirit he opened his mouth - - & beginning with this Scripture *he told him the good news about Jesus*

**Man - that is Beautiful !!**

No doubt Philip took the Eunuch thru the entire Ch of ISA 53

Guys - if we would just learn this ONE CH OF ISA

We would have the Entire Gospel Message DOWN - from the O.T.

& so, Philip begins explaining WHO Jesus is from ISA 53

& when he gets to the end of the CH - he reads in V.12

*. . . yet he bore the sin of many, and makes intercession for the transgressors.*

& Philip probably says: *Would you LIKE Him to do that for YOU?*

& this Eunuch - gets SAVED !!

How could he not? - God had lined it all up

& Philip was being obedient to the leading of the Spirit

**If we** will Let the **Word of God** do its job - **Salvation** will be the **natural outcome** - for **the people** God **leads** us to

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& **So** - the **NEXT Natural Response** for the Eunuch who had **just been saved** is - - - **Get Baptized** !

### **Acts 8:36 (esv)**

**36 And as they were going along the road they came to some water, and the eunuch said, "See, here is water! What prevents me from being baptized?"**

**Maybe** the Eunuch **new** about **baptism** as a **convert** to Judaism or **maybe Philip explained** it to him during their **Bible Study**

But **either way** - this Eunuch **KNEW** the **RIGHT thing** to do now - was **get Baptized**

Now - **V.37** is **NOT** found in **NINE** of the top **TEN** manuscripts that exist today - & so it is not found in the **ESV** or the **NLT**

If you have a **V.37** - that verse **IS** consistent with all scripture regarding **Faith** & **Baptism**

it **just isn't** in the **majority** of early manuscripts that exist

### **Acts 8:37 (NKJV)**

**37 Then 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."**

So - **The Eunuch** sees **water** - - **KNOWS** he should be **Baptized** - & we **read in V.38** . . .

### **Acts 8:38 (esv)**

***38 And he commanded the chariot to stop, and they both went down into the water, Philip and the eunuch, and he baptized him.***

**This is the Eunuch's public profession of faith  
& it must have been SO COOL to see**

As this High Official HUMBLES himself  
& is Baptized Literally - in the middle of no-where

With only his Entourage - to Witness it

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& NOW - From THIS Point - The Holy Spirit is going to  
Take Over the "GUIDING" of this Eunuch

Because for Reasons UNKNOWN to us  
Philip's job here is finished !!

& it's Finished in True STAR-TREK Fashion  
As Philip gets BEAMED UP - to God's "Starship Enterprise"

### **Acts 8:39 (esv)**

***39 And when they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord carried Philip away, and the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing.***

I guess he went on his way REJOICING !!

This guy just showed up out of no where  
Explained a Prophetic Scripture that he couldn't understand

Tells him how he can have his Sins Forgiven  
& Receive Eternal Life

& then he Literally Disappears  
when he comes up out of the water !!

I guess that would've MADE this Eunuch's DAY

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& look at that word CARRIED Philip away  
That's one of our Favorite GREEK Words - HARPAZO

**THAT'S the same word used for the RAPTURE in 1Thes 4:17**  
***17 Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord.***

THIS - is Early Rapture Training for Philip !! - - *very cool*

& so - the Eunuch goes on his way REJOICING  
& probably continuing to read the ISAIAH Scroll

**& just 3 Ch's later this Eunuch would read - in Isa 56:3-5**  
***3 Let not the foreigner who has joined himself to the Lord say, "The Lord will surely separate me from his people"; and let not the eunuch say, "Behold, I am a dry tree."***  
***4 For thus says the Lord: "To the eunuchs who keep my Sabbaths, who choose the things that please me and hold fast my covenant,***  
***5 I will give in my house and within my walls a monument and a name better than sons and daughters; I will give them an everlasting name that shall not be cut off.***

& now - this Eunuch has gotta just be goin ballistic

As God's Word is speaking to him - PERSONALLY  
& as the Holy Spirit GUIDES him into the understanding

**In fact** - **Irenaeus** & other **church fathers** credit **THIS** Eunuch with the **SPREAD** of the Gospel in **Ethiopia**

& he **apparently** did a **Great Job**

cause **Ethiopia** is the only **African Nation** that had **Christian Roots long before** any **missionaries** were ever sent there

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Alright - **Let me Blow your Mind** with One Other Thing

Do you **remember** last week - we said this was the **BEGINNING** of the **Gospel** being spread to the **End of the Earth (Acts 1:8)**?

OK - **After the FLOOD - WHO Populated** the Entire Earth ??  
Noah's Sons **HAM, SHEM, JAPETH** - -*(those are **not** the 3 stooges)*

Alright - **Watch this;**

**Everything** I'm about to say is **Traced Back** to **GEN CH 10**

Here, in **Acts 8**, this **Ethiopian** was a **descendant of Ham**

In **Acts 9**, **Saul** of Tarsus will be saved,  
who is a Jew and therefore a **descendant of Shem**

In **Acts 10**, the **Gentiles** Receive Christ  
& they are the **descendants of Japheth**

in **3 Ch's - Descendants** of **EACH** of the **Three Sons of Noah** -  
**who populated** the entire earth - **ALL get saved**

**As a Sign** - that **God** wants the **Entire World** to hear the **Gospel**  
Man - - **THAT** is an **INCREDIBLE** story !!

But WAIT a minute - Philip just got BEAMED UP  
to the Lord's STARSHIP ENTERPRISE

What happened to Philip ?

Acts 8:40 (esv)

*40 But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he passed through he preached the gospel to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.*

This might be the most incredible part of the entire story

Let's just Follow Philip for a minute

- 1) He was chosen as a Deacon in Jerusalem
- 2) Persecution drove him to Samaria
- 3) He leads an incredible Revival, & coulda had a Mega-Church
- 4) He wakes up 1 morning & Leaves the Revival  
to meet ONE GUY in the desert 60 miles away
- 5) He gets him Saved - & then is BEAMED UP to a small town  
on the coast - about 20 miles from there
- 6) Then he walks over 50 miles back up the coast -  
preaching the gospel as he goes
- 7) Finally settling in Caesarea - which is only 20 Miles  
from where he originally started in Samaria

& the most amazing thing is - Philip NEVER returned to Samaria

He could have gone back as a HERO - a Spiritual Super-Star !!

But instead - He Continued to FOLLOW the LEADING of the LORD

**The next time we see Philip - It's 20 yrs later**

& he's still living in **Caesarea**

He's still serving God as an **Evangelist**

& He's got **FOUR Daughters** - Who are all Prophetesses

**LUKE** is writing in **Acts 21:8** - & He's **Traveling with PAUL**

**Acts 21:8-9 (ESV)**

*8 On the next day we departed and came to Caesarea, and we entered the house of Philip the evangelist, who was one of the seven, and stayed with him.*

*9 He had four unmarried daughters, who prophesied.*

**PAUL** - **who's persecution** drove **Philip** out of Jerusalem  
& into his **early** ministry **success**

Is now **STAYING** at Philips **House**

& **those days** that **PAUL spent** at Philip's house  
were **actually** the **LAST DAYS** of Paul's Freedom

He was **about** to be **sent to Rome** as a **Prisoner**  
where he would **eventually** be **Martyred**

**WOW!** - **How the World Turns**

as we just **continue Serving** the Lord !!

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**So** - In the **FIRST YEAR** of his ministry  
Philip did Incredible, Note Worthy things for the Lord

& then - for the next 20 years he served quietly as an Evangelist  
& raised Four Daughters who all became Prophetesses



**Which to me** - is **more important** - than **FOUR** Mega-Churches

But **STILL** - The question **BEGS to be ASKED** . . .

**WHY** did God **use Philip** in such **LARGE PUBLIC** ways  
for the **first year** of his ministry

& **THEN** - **send him** up the **coast** to **quietly** tell people about Jesus  
& **raise** four **Spirit-Filled Daughters**

**WHY ??** - Philip was simply **DOING** what **God LEAD HIM** to Do !!

**Whether it was:**

Starting a **Revival**

Or **Saving a Eunuch** in the Desert

Or **Raising Four daughters** in a small town

Philip **DID** - What God **LED Him** to **DO** - by the Holy Spirit

& **whether** the **results** seemed **Great** or **Small**  
It **didn't seem to matter** to Philip

**When God said RISE & GO - - - Philip WENT**

**& so - For Today - The REAL Lesson is:**

**NOT** to Desire to **IMITATE** Philips **Brilliant Beginnings**

**BUT** to Desire to **IMITATE** Philip's **Consistent Life of Obedience**

When **God told** Philip to **RISE & GO** - Philip - **ROSE UP, & WENT !!**

& the **SAME GOD** Who Spoke to Philip - **Still speaks** to us **TODAY**

**Let's Pray**