



CHURCH GROWTH THROUGH DIVINE MEANS

ACTS 8:26-40

JOSE PRADO



JESUS BUILDS AND SUSTAINS HIS CHURCH

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.²⁷ And he rose and went. 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 ²⁸ and was returning, seated in his chariot, and he was reading the prophet Isaiah. ²⁹ And the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over and join this chariot." ³⁰ So 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. 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."

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. 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?" ³⁷ And Philip said, "If you believe with all your heart, you may." And he replied, "I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God." ³⁸ And he commanded the chariot to stop, and they both went down into the water, Philip and the eunuch, and he baptized him. 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. 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.

Divine Appointment

Philip: An ordinary young man, full of faith and The Holy Spirit.

³ Therefore, brothers, pick out from among you seven **men of good reputation, full of the Spirit and of wisdom**, whom we will appoint to this duty. Acts 6:3

Ethiopian Eunuch: An extraordinary man full of questions and dissatisfaction.

²⁷ And he rose and went. 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.**

Driving Question:

What are the essential divine means necessary for us to be effective witnesses of The Risen Jesus?

1. The Holy Spirit

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.*

a. We need The Spirit's Ruling

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

¹⁴ For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. **Rom. 8:14**

b. We need The Spirit's Revelation

³⁰ So 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.

⁶ Yet among the mature we do impart wisdom, although it is not a wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are doomed to pass away. ⁷ But we impart a secret and hidden wisdom of God, which God decreed before the ages for our glory. ⁸ None of the rulers of this age understood this, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. ⁹ But, as it is written, “What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the heart of man imagined, what God has prepared for those who love him” – ¹⁰ these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit. For the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. **1 Cor. 2:6-10**

c. We need The Spirit's Regeneration

³⁷And Philip said, "If you believe with all your heart, you may." And he replied, "I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God."

⁴ But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, ⁵ he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit. **Titus 3:4-5**

2. The Word of God

³⁰ So Philip ran to him and heard him reading Isaiah the prophet and asked, “Do you understand what you are reading?”

a. We need The Written Word

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

¹ Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers; ² but his delight is in the law of the Lord, and on his law he meditates day and night. Psalm 1:1-2

b. We need The Preached Word

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

¹⁴ How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching?

Romans 10:14

c. We need The Living Word

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?**”

³⁷ And Philip said, “If you believe with all your heart, you may.” And he replied, “I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.” ³⁸ And he commanded the chariot to stop, and **they both went down into the water, Philip and the eunuch, and he baptized him.**

The Fruit of Divine Intervention:

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.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.

Pastoral Reflections:

- Do you desire the Ruling of The Spirit over your heart and mind?
- Do you desire the joy that comes through the Revelation of Jesus in your heart and mind?
- Do you want to respond to Jesus in obedience and be Baptized?