

## Summary

This sermon, titled "The Acts of the Spirit-Filled Church," explores the cooperative partnership between the Holy Spirit and the church in advancing God's mission. Using examples from Acts 8, 16, and 15, the pastor illustrates how the Holy Spirit works in and through believers rather than independently of them. The key stories include Philip's Spirit-led encounter with the Ethiopian eunuch, Paul's redirected missionary journey to Macedonia, and the Jerusalem council's decision about Gentile converts. The central message emphasizes that God's mission advances neither by the Spirit alone nor by the church alone, but through the Spirit working in and through Spirit-filled believers who "raise their sails" and yield to God's leading. The sermon encourages Christians to be attentive to Spirit promptings, trust God's redirection when plans change, and engage in Spirit-led decision making as part of the ongoing mission to make disciples.

## Discussion Questions

1. **Partnership with the Spirit:** How do you understand the difference between God working through us versus working independently of us? What does it mean practically to be a "Spirit-filled" Christian?
2. **Divine Appointments:** Can you share a time when you experienced what seemed like a "divine appointment" - an unexpected encounter that felt orchestrated by God? How did you recognize it at the time?
3. **Spirit Promptings:** The sermon suggests that God usually speaks through quiet promptings rather than audible voices. How do you discern between a Spirit nudge and your own thoughts or desires? What helps you recognize God's leading?
4. **Closed Doors:** Paul's team was redirected twice before reaching Macedonia. How do you typically respond when your plans don't work out? Can you think of a time when a closed door led to something better than you had originally planned?
5. **Step-by-Step Faith:** Philip obeyed "one step at a time, trusting that the next step would present itself." What makes this kind of faith challenging? What would help you grow in taking faithful steps without seeing the whole path?
6. **Spirit-Led Decision Making:** The Jerusalem council said "it seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to us." How can churches and individuals make decisions that honor both human wisdom and spiritual discernment? What role should prayer, discussion, and consensus play?
7. **Raising the Sails:** The sermon uses the metaphor of raising sails to catch God's wind. In your current season of life, what would it look like for you to "raise your sails" and be more available to God's leading?