



Summary

In this powerful exploration of Acts chapter 8, we discover what genuine faith in action looks like through the story of Philip and the Ethiopian eunuch. The central question confronting us is simple yet profound: Will we obey God's prompting even when it doesn't make sense? Philip was in the midst of a remarkable revival in Samaria—signs, wonders, healings, and mass conversions were happening. Yet God called him away from this incredible movement to walk along a desert road to Gaza. No explanation. No reason given. Just a command to go. Philip's immediate response—"So he arose and went"—reveals the heart of walking by faith: doing what God says when God says it, without needing to understand the why. This challenges our modern approach to ministry and evangelism, where we often rely on programs, strategies, and human wisdom. Sometimes God asks us to step away from what seems successful to reach just one person. The Ethiopian eunuch had traveled hundreds of miles seeking the God of the Hebrews, only to be kept at arm's length by religious restrictions. Yet what Judaism excluded, Jesus welcomed with open arms. This reminds us that God sees every seeking heart and will never allow genuine spiritual hunger to go unfulfilled. The eunuch's journey from seeker to believer to baptized follower—all in one encounter—demonstrates the transformative power of the gospel when delivered in the power of the Holy Spirit. His immediate question upon seeing water—"What hinders me from being baptized?"—shows us what authentic conversion looks like: eager, joyful, and publicly demonstrated. Perhaps most remarkably, this one man would go on to influence an entire nation, with Ethiopia today having approximately 80 million Christians. We're reminded that God's mathematics are different from ours—sometimes leaving the ninety-nine to reach the one produces greater eternal fruit than we could imagine.



Points

Title: Walking by Faith: Philip and the Ethiopian Eunuch

Sermon Summary: This sermon explores the account of Philip and the Ethiopian eunuch from Acts 8, demonstrating what walking by faith truly looks like. Pastor emphasizes that the purest form of evangelism occurs when one person, prompted by the Holy Spirit, shares the gospel with another. Philip left a powerful revival in Samaria to obey God's command to go to a desert road, not knowing why until he encountered the Ethiopian eunuch. The message highlights three essential steps of walking by faith: doing what God says when He says it, going where God directs, and opening your mouth to share Jesus. The sermon underscores that God will never allow a heart genuinely seeking Him to go unfulfilled, and that being ready to share the gospel from wherever Scripture finds you is crucial. Philip's obedience resulted in one man's salvation who would go on to influence an entire nation, with Ethiopia today having approximately 80 million Christians comprising 67% of its population.

Key Points:

- God rarely provides the "why" when He calls us; He simply tells us where to go and when to go
- Our trust in God is revealed through our faithfulness to God
- Step one in walking by faith: Do what God says when God says
- Step two: Go where God directs, even when it doesn't make logical sense
- Step three: Open your mouth and preach Jesus
- God sent Philip away from a great revival to reach one man who would influence a nation
- The Ethiopian eunuch was kept at arm's length by Judaism but welcomed with open arms by Jesus
- We must always be ready to preach the gospel from wherever Scripture finds us
- Water baptism should be included as part of the message of salvation as an indication of being saved
- God trusts the Holy Spirit to disciple new believers
- The entire Bible, Old and New Testament, speaks of Jesus Christ
- God's positioning system (GPS) is pinpoint accurate when we obey His leading



Scripture Reference:

- Acts 8:26-40 (Primary passage: Philip and the Ethiopian eunuch)
- Acts 1:8 (Witnesses in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and to the ends of the earth)
- Isaiah 53:7-8 (The suffering servant passage the eunuch was reading)
- John 6:37 (All that the Father gives will come to Jesus)
- 2 Timothy 4:2 (Preach the word, be ready in season and out of season)
- 1 Peter 3:15 (Always be ready to give a defense for the hope within you)
- Hebrews 10:7 (In the volume of the book it is written of Me)
- Acts 21:8-9 (Philip the Evangelist twenty years later)
- Romans 10:9 (Confession and belief for salvation)

Stories:

- The Ethiopian eunuch's journey to Jerusalem to worship and his return home unfulfilled until meeting Philip
- Ethiopian tradition regarding the Queen of Sheba's visit to King Solomon and the belief that Haile Selassie was a direct descendant
- The pastor's personal testimony of being saved at age 38 while living alone in Meridian, Mississippi, and how the Holy Spirit protected him from false teaching (Kenneth Copeland example)
- Philip being miraculously transported (raptured) from Gaza to Azotus after baptizing the eunuch
- The account of Philip earning the title "Philip the Evangelist" and having four virgin daughters who prophesied
- The intriguing thought of Paul (formerly Saul who persecuted Christians) later visiting Philip and discussing "the old times, the bad times, the real bad times transformed into great times by Jesus Christ"
- The pastor's father passing away the previous week as a believer, giving assurance of his immediate entrance into heaven



Scripture

Scripture References from the Sermon

Directly Cited or Read:

1. **Acts 8:26** - The angel of the Lord spoke to Philip
2. **Acts 8:27** - The Ethiopian eunuch description
3. **Acts 8:30** - Philip ran to him and heard him reading
4. **Acts 8:32-33** - Isaiah 53:7-8 (quoted by the eunuch)
5. **Acts 8:34** - "Of whom does the prophet say this?"
6. **Acts 8:35** - Philip preached Jesus to him
7. **Acts 8:36** - "What hinders me from being baptized?"
8. **Acts 8:37** - Philip's response about belief
9. **Acts 8:38** - Both went down into the water
10. **Acts 8:39** - Spirit caught Philip away
11. **Acts 8:40** - Philip found at Azotus
12. **Acts 1:8** - "You shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you"
13. **Acts 8:3** - Saul made havoc of the church
14. **Acts 6:1-6** - Selection of the seven deacons including Philip
15. **Acts 26** - Paul's testimony about persecuting Christians
16. **Acts 21:8-9** - Philip the Evangelist with four daughters
17. **Isaiah 53:7-8** - The suffering servant passage
18. **1 Kings 10** - Queen of Sheba's visit to Solomon
19. **Deuteronomy 23:1** - Emasculated not allowed to enter temple
20. **John 6:37** - "All that the Father gives me will come to me"
21. **2 Timothy 4:2** - "Preach the word; be ready in season and out of season"
22. **1 Peter 3:15** - "Always be ready to give a defense"



23. **Hebrews 10:7** - "In the volume of the book it is written of me"

24. **Psalm 40** - (Alluded to in Hebrews 10:7 reference)

25. **1 Thessalonians 4** - (Referenced regarding "harpazo"/rapture)

26. **Romans 10:9** - "If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved" (paraphrased)

Additional References Suggested by Themes:

Walking by Faith:

- **2 Corinthians 5:7** - "We walk by faith, not by sight"

- **Hebrews 11:6** - "Without faith it is impossible to please God"

Divine Appointments/God's Sovereignty:

- **Proverbs 16:9** - "A man's heart plans his way, but the LORD directs his steps"

- **Ephesians 2:10** - "We are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works"

The Gospel to All Nations:

- **Matthew 28:19-20** - The Great Commission

- **Revelation 7:9** - People from every nation, tribe, and tongue

No One Righteous:

- **Romans 3:10** - "There is none righteous, no, not one"

- **Romans 3:23** - "All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God"

God's Love:

- **Romans 5:8** - "While we were still sinners, Christ died for us"

- **John 3:16** - "For God so loved the world"



Quotes

The purest form of evangelism is one man hearing from Jesus to share the gospel with another man.

Do what God says when God says. Our trust in God will always be revealed in our faithfulness to God.

Philip's only concern was doing what he sensed God telling him to do. So he arose and went.

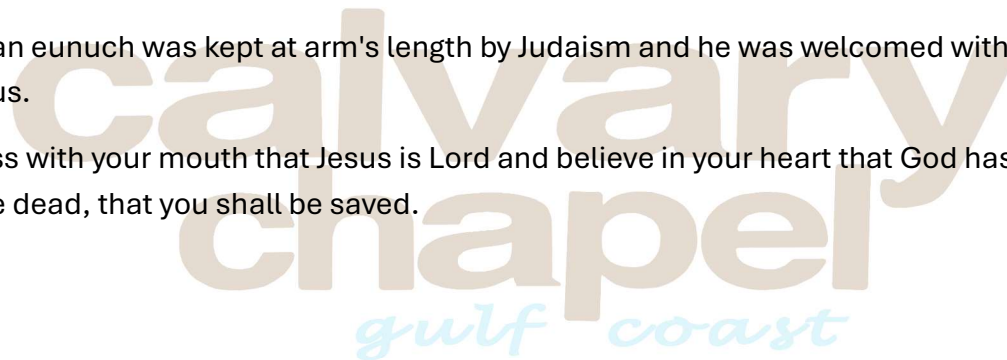
God will never allow a heart who desires to know him to go unfulfilled. He never will.

Never underestimate the need to be familiar enough with God's word to preach the gospel from the place scripture finds you.

Philip departed a revival in a region to share the gospel with a man who would go on to influence a nation.

This Ethiopian eunuch was kept at arm's length by Judaism and he was welcomed with open arms by Jesus.

If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God has raised him from the dead, that you shall be saved.





Discussion Questions

- Philip left a thriving revival in Samaria to go to a desert road without knowing why. What does this teach us about obedience when God's instructions don't make logical sense?
- The Ethiopian eunuch was kept at arm's length by Judaism but welcomed with open arms by Jesus. How does this challenge our understanding of who God reaches and how He uses unlikely circumstances?
- Philip was prepared to explain Isaiah 53 at the exact moment the Ethiopian eunuch was reading it. How can we position ourselves to be ready when God opens doors for gospel conversations?
- The sermon emphasizes that God rarely provides the 'why' when He calls us to go somewhere, only the 'where' and 'when.' How does this reality test our trust in God's sovereignty?
- After Philip baptized the Ethiopian eunuch and was taken away by the Spirit, the eunuch went on his way rejoicing without further discipleship from Philip. What does this reveal about the Holy Spirit's role in nurturing new believers?
- The pastor notes that our trust in God is always revealed in our faithfulness to God. How have you seen this principle play out in your own life or the lives of others?
- Philip ran one man who would influence an entire nation of 80 million Christians in Ethiopia. How does this change your perspective on seemingly small acts of obedience?
- The sermon states that anyone genuinely seeking the Lord will not only be found by Him but will allow themselves to be found. What barriers might prevent someone from allowing themselves to be found by God?
- Water baptism is presented as an indication that you are saved, not what saves you. Why is this distinction important, and how does baptism serve as a powerful testimony of faith?
- The Ethiopian eunuch had traveled hundreds of miles to worship but left unfulfilled until Philip explained Jesus to him. How does this illustrate the difference between religious seeking and encountering the living Christ?



Small Group Guide: Walking by Faith with Philip

Acts 8:26-40

Opening Prayer

Begin your group time by asking God to open hearts and minds to His Word and to help each person understand how to walk by faith in their daily lives.

Ice Breaker

Share a time when you felt God clearly directing you to do something specific. How did you respond? What was the outcome?

Key Takeaways from the Sermon

1. Walking by Faith Requires Obedience Without Full Understanding

- God rarely provides the "why" - only the "where" and "when"
- Philip left a revival to go to a desert without knowing the reason

2. Our Trust in God is Revealed in Our Faithfulness to God

- Philip's immediate response: "So he arose and went"
- No questions, no delays, no concern for himself

3. God's GPS (God Positioning System) is Perfectly Accurate

- God orchestrates divine appointments with pinpoint precision
- The Ethiopian eunuch was reading Isaiah 53 at exactly the right moment

4. God Never Allows a Seeking Heart to Go Unfulfilled

- The Ethiopian was kept at arm's length by Judaism
- He was welcomed with open arms by Jesus

5. One Person Reached Can Impact an Nation

- Philip left a revival to reach one man
- That one man influenced an entire nation (80 million Christians in Ethiopia today)



Discussion Questions

Understanding the Text

1. **Read Acts 8:26-40 together.** What stands out to you most about this passage? Why?
2. The sermon outlined three steps of faith Philip took:
 - Step 1: Do what God says when God says (v. 27)
 - Step 2: Go near and engage (v. 29-30)
 - Step 3: Open your mouth and preach Jesus (v. 35)

Which of these steps do you find most challenging? Why?

3. Why do you think God chose to send Philip away from a successful revival in Samaria to meet one person in the desert?

Personal Reflection

4. **The pastor asked: "How many of us would be willing to step out of a great move of God to go nowhere and to go nowhere fast without being told why?"**
 - How would you honestly answer this question?
 - What holds us back from this kind of radical obedience?
5. The sermon stated: "If you're prompted to share the gospel with someone, it must be God prompting you—it's not Satan, and it's not your flesh."
 - Have you experienced promptings to share your faith that you ignored or dismissed?
 - What fears or doubts typically prevent you from acting on these promptings?
6. **Read 2 Timothy 4:2 and 1 Peter 3:15.** How "ready" do you feel to share the gospel or answer questions about your faith?
 - What would help you feel more prepared?

Going Deeper

7. The Ethiopian eunuch had traveled hundreds of miles to worship God but was kept at arm's length by religious restrictions. Yet Jesus welcomed him completely.
 - Who are the "Ethiopian eunuchs" in our culture today—people who seek God but feel excluded by the church?
 - How can we ensure we're extending Christ's welcome rather than religious barriers?



8. Philip began "right where he was"—at Isaiah 53, where the eunuch was reading.
 - Why is it important to meet people where they are spiritually rather than where we think they should be?
 - Can you share an example of when someone met you where you were in your spiritual journey?
9. The sermon emphasized that the Holy Spirit, not a structured program, disciplined the Ethiopian eunuch after his conversion.
 - What role do you think the Holy Spirit plays in discipleship versus human mentors?
 - How can we balance Spirit-led discipleship with intentional community?

Application

10. The pastor shared his experience of the Holy Spirit warning him away from false teaching (Kenneth Copeland) even as a new believer.
 - How do we cultivate sensitivity to the Holy Spirit's guidance in our lives?
 - What practices help you discern God's voice from other influences?
11. **Philip was known as "Philip the Evangelist" 20 years later (Acts 21:8).**
 - What would you want to be known for 20 years from now?
 - What steps can you take this week to move toward that identity?

Practical Applications

This Week's Challenge

Choose one of the following to put into practice:

Option 1: The Prayer Walk

- Take a prayer walk through your neighborhood, workplace, or campus
- Ask God to show you who He wants you to talk to about Jesus
- When someone comes to mind, write down their name and commit to pray for an opportunity
- Be ready to "arise and go" when God opens the door

Option 2: The Scripture Study

- Spend 15 minutes each day this week reading through the Gospel of John
- As you read, write down how each passage points to Jesus



- Practice explaining the gospel starting from different passages
- Goal: Be able to "begin where you are" like Philip did

Option 3: The Obedience Experiment

- Each morning this week, pray: "Lord, where do you want me to go today? Who do you want me to talk to?"
- Write down any promptings you sense (even if they seem small or unusual)
- Act on at least one prompting each day without overthinking it
- Journal what happens when you obey

Option 4: The Testimony Prep

- Write out your testimony in 3-5 minutes, focusing on:
 - Your life before Christ
 - How you came to know Jesus
 - The difference He's made in your life
- Practice sharing it with someone in your group
- Ask God for an opportunity to share it with a non-believer this week

Group Activity: Role Play

Scenario Practice (15-20 minutes)

Divide into pairs and practice responding to these common questions or situations:

1. A coworker says: "I've been reading the Bible, but I don't understand what I'm reading. How do you make sense of it?"
2. A friend mentions they've been thinking about spiritual things and asks: "Do you really believe all that stuff about Jesus?"
3. Someone at the gym notices your peace during a stressful time and asks: "How do you stay so calm? What's your secret?"

After each scenario:

- Share how it felt to practice
- Discuss what was helpful or challenging
- Pray for real opportunities to have these conversations



Memory Verse

Acts 1:8 "But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

Closing Reflection Questions

- What is one specific thing God spoke to you about through this study?
 - What is one action you will take this week as a result?
 - How can we pray for you?
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Prayer Focus

Pray together for:

1. **Boldness** - That we would have Philip's immediate obedience when God prompts us
 2. **Sensitivity** - That we would recognize the Holy Spirit's leading in our daily lives
 3. **Readiness** - That we would know Scripture well enough to share Jesus from wherever someone is spiritually
 4. **Divine Appointments** - That God would orchestrate meetings with people who are seeking Him
 5. **Specific People** - Share names of people you're praying will come to know Jesus, and pray for them together
 6. **Our Church** - That our church would be known for welcoming those who feel excluded elsewhere, just as Jesus welcomed the Ethiopian eunuch
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Looking Ahead

Next week's sermon will cover Paul's conversion (Acts 9). To prepare:

- Read Acts 9:1-31
 - Consider: What does it take for someone to completely change direction in life?
 - Reflect on your own conversion story or a time when God radically redirected your path
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Additional Resources



For Further Study:

- Read the full context of Isaiah 53 to understand what the Ethiopian was reading
- Study other examples of divine appointments in Scripture: Jesus and the Samaritan woman (John 4), Peter and Cornelius (Acts 10)
- Research the history of Christianity in Ethiopia to see the fruit of Philip's obedience

Recommended Reading:

- "The Master Plan of Evangelism" by Robert Coleman
- "Evangelism and the Sovereignty of God" by J.I. Packer

Leader's Notes

- **Timing:** This guide is designed for a 60-90 minute small group session
- **Flexibility:** Choose the questions most relevant to your group; you don't need to cover everything
- **Sensitivity:** Some may feel convicted about missed opportunities to share their faith—create a grace-filled environment
- **Follow-up:** Check in next week on how the practical applications went
- **Encouragement:** Celebrate even small steps of obedience in faith



5-Day Devotional: Walking By Faith

Day 1: Obedience Without Understanding

Reading: Acts 8:26-29

Devotional: Philip received a puzzling command: leave a powerful revival to travel to a desert road. No explanation. No reason given. Just "arise and go." How often does God call us to step out without revealing the full picture? Philip's immediate response—"So he arose and went"—reveals the heart of true discipleship. He didn't demand to know why, didn't negotiate terms, didn't delay to consider his comfort or reputation. God rarely provides the "why" before we obey; He simply tells us "where" and "when." Your trust in God will always be revealed in your faithfulness to God. Today, consider: What step of obedience have you been postponing because you don't understand God's purpose? Remember, doing what God says when God says it is the first step in walking by faith.

Day 2: Divine Appointments

Reading: Acts 8:30-35

Devotional: Philip's obedience positioned him for a divine appointment with an Ethiopian seeker reading Isaiah 53. This wasn't coincidence—God orchestrates every detail. The eunuch had traveled hundreds of miles to worship in Jerusalem, yet remained unfulfilled, kept at arm's length by religious barriers. But God saw his seeking heart and sent Philip at precisely the right moment. God will never allow a heart that genuinely desires to know Him to go unfulfilled. Notice Philip's readiness: he could preach Jesus from wherever Scripture found him. Are you prepared for the divine appointments God arranges in your life? Spend time daily in God's Word so you're equipped to share Jesus from any passage. Someone near you is seeking; will you be ready when the Spirit prompts you to engage?

Day 3: The Gospel Welcomes All

Reading: Acts 8:36-39; John 6:37

Devotional: Judaism excluded the Ethiopian eunuch from full worship, but Jesus welcomed him with open arms. His immediate response—"What hinders me from being baptized?"—reveals the joy of one who has finally found acceptance. Philip's answer was simple: belief in Jesus Christ as Lord. No elaborate requirements, no religious hoops, just faith. This is the beauty of the gospel: "All that the Father gives me will come to me, and the one who comes to me I will by no means cast out." Jesus doesn't keep seekers at arm's length; He embraces them completely. The eunuch went away rejoicing despite Philip's sudden departure because his joy was rooted in Christ, not circumstances. Have you experienced this welcoming love of Jesus? If so, who in your life needs to hear that they too are welcomed by Christ?

Day 4: The Holy Spirit as Discipler



Reading: Acts 8:39-40; 2 Timothy 4:2

Devotional: After baptizing the eunuch, Philip was immediately snatched away by the Spirit. No follow-up program, no discipleship manual, no weekly meetings scheduled. Yet the eunuch "went on his way rejoicing." God trusted the Holy Spirit to disciple this new believer, and history shows Ethiopian Christianity flourished. We often underestimate the Spirit's power to guide new believers. While human mentorship has value, the ultimate Discipler is the Holy Spirit who leads us into all truth. This doesn't excuse our responsibility to be available when prompted, but it releases us from thinking salvation depends on our perfect follow-through. The same Spirit who drew someone to Christ can guide them in growth. Trust Him. Be available when He prompts you to encourage a new believer, but remember: the Holy Spirit is always on duty, always faithful, always sufficient.

Day 5: Called to Be Evangelists

Reading: Acts 21:8-9; 1 Peter 3:15

Devotional: Twenty years later, Philip earned the title "Philip the Evangelist." This wasn't a one-time obedience but a lifestyle. From Azotus to Caesarea, he preached in every city. His faithfulness in the desert with one seeker led to influence across regions. That Ethiopian eunuch likely sparked a movement that resulted in 80 million Christians in Ethiopia today. Philip departed a revival in a region to share the gospel with a man who influenced a nation. God's mathematics are different from ours. One faithful act of obedience can have eternal, exponential impact. You may never know the full fruit of your witness, but God does. Be ready in season and out of season. Always be prepared to give an answer for the hope within you. Will people someday know you as an evangelist—one who faithfully shares Jesus wherever God leads?

Reflection Question for the Week: In what area is God calling you to take a step of faith without full understanding? How will you respond to His prompting today?