

Led by the Holy Spirit

Part 3

Acts 8

The Church Persecuted following the death of Stephen

On that day a great persecution broke out against the church in Jerusalem, and all except the apostles were scattered throughout Judea and Samaria. **2** Godly men buried Stephen and mourned deeply for him. **3** But Saul began to destroy the church. Going from house to house, he dragged off both men and women and put them in prison.

Philip in Samaria

4 Those who had been scattered preached the word wherever they went. **5** Philip went down to a city in Samaria and proclaimed the Messiah there. **6** When the crowds heard Philip and saw the signs he performed, they all paid close attention to what he said. **7** For with shrieks, impure spirits came out of many, and many who were paralyzed or lame were healed. **8** So there was great joy in that city.

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Galatians 5

16 So I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. **17** For the flesh desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the flesh. They are in conflict with each other, so that you are not to do whatever you want. **18** But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.

Illustration: Tug of War

Wikipedia: Tug of war is a sport that pits two teams against each other in a test of strength: teams pull on opposite ends of a rope, with the

goal being to bring the rope a certain distance in one direction against the force of the opposing team's pull.

Galatians 5:17

For the flesh desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the flesh. They are in conflict with each other...

- There are Tug of Wars going on in the Spiritual Realm...
- In an effort to understand what it means to be lead by the Holy Spirit we have to understand that people are caught in a Tug of War...
- There is a Spiritual Battle being waged over the souls of people...
- Not only is there a Spiritual Battle over the souls of man but there is another battle taking place inside of every believer...
- The flesh desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the flesh.

In the early church this was taking place also in the public square as many believers suffered persecution for their faith...

God was moving and many people were coming to faith in the Lord Jesus and at the same time persecution was causing the believers to scatter to other parts of the world...

- Those who abandoned their faith were given over to the enemy...

The Apostle Paul speaks of this in

1 Timothy 1

19 holding on to faith and a good conscience, which some have rejected and so have suffered shipwreck with regard to the faith.

20 Among them are Hymenaeus and Alexander, whom I have handed over to Satan to be taught not to blaspheme.

- In the midst of this God was triumphant through his Church...
- Believers who remained faithful to the Lord and were lead by the Holy Spirit, witnessed God moving and doing miracles...

Phillip was the first recorded Evangelist in the Bible...

Vs. 4,5

4 Those who had been scattered preached the word wherever they went. **5** Philip went down to a city in Samaria and proclaimed the Messiah there...

- Of all places, Philip goes to Samaria...
- Samaritans and Jews don't mix and Samaria was dangerous for Jews...
- Yet Philip yielded to the Spirit and not the flesh...
- As a result God moves and Philip witnesses a Miracle...

14 When the apostles in Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to Samaria. **15** When they arrived, they prayed for the new believers there that they might receive the Holy Spirit, **16** because the Holy Spirit had not yet come on any of them; they had simply been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.

17 Then Peter and John placed their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

1. Philip was led by the Spirit - and he was willing to go where not everyone was willing to go

- **Obedience impresses the Lord...**

- **If we desire closeness with the Holy Spirit, we must demonstrate a willingness to obey...**
- **John 15:14** “You are my friends if you do what I command.”
- **1 Samuel 15:22** “Obedience is better than sacrifice”

Acts 8

26 Now an angel of the Lord said to Philip, “Go south to the road—the desert road—that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.” **27** So he started out, and on his way he met an Ethiopian eunuch, an important official in charge of all the treasury of the Kandake (which means “queen of the Ethiopians”). This man had gone to Jerusalem to worship, **28** and on his way home was sitting in his chariot reading the Book of Isaiah the prophet. **29** The Spirit told Philip, “Go to that chariot and **stay near it.**”

30 Then Philip ran up to the chariot and heard the man reading Isaiah the prophet. “Do you understand what you are reading?” Philip asked.

31 “How can I,” he said, “unless someone explains it to me?” So he invited Philip to **come up and sit** with him.

32 This is the passage of Scripture the eunuch was reading:

*“He was led like a sheep to the slaughter,
and as a lamb before its shearer is silent,
so he did not open his mouth.*

33

*In his humiliation he was deprived of justice.
Who can speak of his descendants?
For his life was taken from the earth.”*

34 The eunuch asked Philip, “Tell me, please, who is the prophet talking about, himself or someone else?” **35** Then Philip began with

that very passage of Scripture and told him the good news about Jesus.

Philips Steps of Obedience:

1. Stand - “Go to that chariot and stay near it.”
2. Sit - So he invited Philip to come up and sit with him.
3. Tell - Philip told him the good news about Jesus.

I have never known obedience to the Holy Spirit to be difficult, but I does require dying to self...

36 As they traveled along the road, they came to some water and the eunuch said, “Look, here is water. What can stand in the way of my being baptized?” **38** And he gave orders to stop the chariot. Then both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water and Philip baptized him. **39** When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord suddenly took Philip away, and the eunuch did not see him again, but went on his way rejoicing. **40** Philip, however, appeared at Azotus and traveled about, preaching the gospel in all the towns until he reached Caesarea.

2. Philip was Led by the Spirit - and God lead him to a Divine Appointment

- What I find so impressive about Philip is, God told him to go and he went...

26 Now an angel of the Lord said to Philip, “**Go south to the road—** the desert road... **27 So he started out,** and on his way he met an Ethiopian eunuch,

29 The Spirit told Philip, “Go to that chariot and stay near it.” - And Philip went...

- The First time God sends Philip to Samaritans, who were looked down upon by Jews... They would have been considered the least of the least... And Philip was obedient...
- This time God sends Philip to Gaza... not for a group, but for a person...
- A very important person, an Ethiopian eunuch who is in charge of the treasury of Ethiopia... And Philip was obedient...
- When you allow the Holy Spirit to lead you, you never know what might happen...

The Anointing is for Service...

The Anointing is Wonderful...

The Anointing destroys the stronghold of the enemy...

The Anointing sets us apart from the world...

But most importantly we must never forget, the Anointing is for Service...

God puts his spirit on us, because there is a world that desperately needs Him...

People need the Lord...

1 Peter 3:15

Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have.

Philip had no idea what was going to happen...

Philip had no idea what he was going to say...

But one thing Philip was ready for, was to give the reason of the hope that he had in Jesus...

Story: Man at gas station in Memphis, TN