

Acts
Step Up and Speak Up
June 30, 2024

Acts 8:1-5 On that day a **great persecution** broke out against the church in Jerusalem, and all except the apostles were scattered throughout Judea and Samaria... Those who had been scattered preached the word wherever they went. **Philip went down to a city in Samaria and proclaimed the Messiah** there.

Acts 8:9-24 Now for some time a man named **Simon had practiced sorcery** in the city and amazed all the people of Samaria. He boasted that he was someone great... **Simon himself believed and was baptized.** And he followed Philip everywhere, astonished by the great signs and miracles he saw... When Simon saw that the Spirit was given at the laying on of the apostles' hands, he **offered them money** and said, "**Give me also this ability** so that everyone on whom I lay my hands may receive the Holy Spirit"... "**your heart is not right before God. Repent** of this wickedness and pray to the Lord in the hope that he may forgive you for having such a thought in your heart. For I see that you are full of **bitterness and captive to sin.**" Then Simon answered, "Pray to the Lord **for me** so that nothing you have said may happen to me."

How do we engage in spiritual conversations that produce change?

1. God has called us to _____ and have spiritual conversations.

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.**"

Key Thought: To go is to _____ about people.

Key Thought: We need to learn people's _____.

2. Spiritual conversations take _____.

Acts 8:27-29 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, and on his way home was sitting in his chariot reading the Book of Isaiah the prophet. The Spirit told Philip, "**Go to that chariot and stay near it.**"

3. We have to build a relational connection by asking better _____.

Acts 8:30-31 Then Philip ran up to the chariot and heard the man reading Isaiah the prophet. "**Do you understand what you are reading?**" Philip asked. "How can I," he said, "unless someone explains it to me?" So he invited Philip to come up and sit with him.

4. We should give a clear presentation of the _____.

Acts 8:32-35 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. In his humiliation he was deprived of justice. Who can speak of his descendants? For his life was taken from the earth." **The eunuch asked Philip,**

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“Tell me, please, who is the prophet talking about, himself or someone else?” Then Philip began with that very passage of Scripture and **told him the good news about Jesus.**

The Gospel:

- ✓ Jesus _____ them and has a plan for them.
- ✓ We have all _____ and deserve the wrath of God because He is holy.

Galatians 5:19-23 The acts of the flesh are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who **live** like this will not inherit the kingdom of God. But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.

Question: Which side best describes the way you _____ your life? Acts of the flesh or fruit of the Spirit?

- ✓ God sent His Son, _____, who came and lived the perfect life, died, and rose from the dead and paid the penalty for our sin.

1 Corinthians 15:1-4 Now, brothers and sisters, I want to remind you of the **gospel** I preached to you, which you received and on which you have **taken your stand**. By **this gospel you are saved**, if you **hold firmly** to the word I preached to you. Otherwise, you have believed in vain. For what I received I passed on to you as of **first importance**: that **Christ died for our sins** according to the Scriptures, that he was **buried**, that he was **raised on the third day** according to the Scriptures.

- ✓ We need to _____, believe, and confess.
- ✓ Experience new life in Christ.
- ✓ _____.
- ✓ _____ of Spirit.

5. Spiritual conversations can lead to _____.

Acts 8:36-38 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?**” And he gave orders to stop the chariot. Then both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water and Philip baptized him.

Acts 8:39-40 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. Philip, however, appeared at Azotus and traveled about, preaching the gospel in all the towns until he reached Caesarea.

Walk Away: May we look for opportunities this week to be courageous and _____ the Gospel with someone who needs it.

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