



Intro: Over the past two weeks we have looked at the importance of God's Word and community as we have been learning how to Walk out this new life that Jesus suffered, died and rose from the grave to give us.

In week one we learned the importance of **Walking it out through the WORD**. We must allow God to lead and grow us even in the seasons of disappointment through the study, understanding and application of His Word.

Last week we discussed the importance of **Walking it out Together**. We learned that it is difficult to walk this out together, but it's impossible to walk it out alone. As we see in the book of Acts there are three major traits that should easily be seen in us as a New Testament Church. We must Cultivate Unity, Walk in the Great Power and Minister Great Grace.

This morning I want to look at a third component of our faith journey. **Walking it out as a Testimony. The importance of testifying of Jesus with both our words and our actions.**

Acts 8:26-40 **26** Now an angel of the Lord spoke to Philip, saying, "Arise and go toward the south along the road which goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." This is desert. **27** So he arose and went. And behold, a man of Ethiopia, a eunuch of great authority under Candace the queen of the Ethiopians, who had charge of all her treasury, and had come to Jerusalem to worship, **28** was returning. And sitting in his chariot, he was reading Isaiah the prophet. **29** Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go near and overtake this chariot." **30** So Philip ran to him, and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah, and said, "Do you understand what you are reading?" **31** And he said, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he asked Philip to come up and sit with him. **32** The place in the Scripture which he read was this: "He was led as a sheep to the slaughter; And as a lamb before its shearer is silent, So He opened not His mouth. **33** In His humiliation His justice was taken away, And who will declare His generation? For His life is taken from the earth." **34** So the eunuch answered Philip and said, "I ask you, of whom does the prophet say this, of himself or of some other man?" **35** Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning at this Scripture, preached Jesus to him. **36** Now as they went down the road, they came to some water. And the eunuch said, "**See, here is water. What hinders me from being baptized?**" **37** Then Philip said, "If you believe with all your heart, you may." And he answered and said, "**I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.**" **38** So he commanded the chariot to stand still. And both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water, and he baptized him. **39** Now when they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord caught Philip away, so that the eunuch saw him no more; and he went on his way rejoicing. **40** But Philip was found at Azotus. And passing through, he preached in all the cities till he came to Caesarea.

Backdrop: In the wake of Stephen's murder, persecution arises in Jerusalem towards the Christians. Many are driven out of Jerusalem, but as they go they are testifying to the resurrection of Jesus everywhere they go. A man named Philip, not the Apostle, but the disciple chosen along with Stephen to minister to the Hellenist widows in Acts 6:5 goes down to Samaria and preaches Jesus to the Samaritans. **Acts 8:12** records that multitudes **"...believed Philip as he preached the things concerning the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, both men and women were baptized."**

The Apostles back in Jerusalem hear about this and send Peter and John to join Philip. When they arrive they pray for the Samaritans and they receive the Holy Spirit! They were walking this out through the Word and they were walking this out Together.

In the midst of this fruitful ministry the Holy Spirit instructs Philip to leave the place of fruitful ministry and go down to Gaza on a deserted path! (Vs 26)

Vs. 26 Sometimes God will lead you into seemingly deserted places...Will you obey & follow?

Vs. 27-28 You never know who God has prepared in the midst of the desert.

Vs. 29-35 Be instant in season and out of season...Always be ready to obey & to testify!
"Go near and overtake the chariot...so Philip ran." "Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning at this Scripture, preached Jesus to him."

Vs. 36-40 Our testimony is not only in word but in action. Philip testified with words of Jesus and with his actions as he baptized the Ethiopian. The Ethiopian testified with his words that he believed.(Vs. 37) He demonstrated his belief in Jesus as his Savior with his actions by being baptized.

(Vs. 36 'what hinders me from being baptized?' Despite being a proselyte who came to Jerusalem to worship, he would not have been allowed to immerse (be baptized) in the "mitzvah" the entry point to the temple worship because of his physical deformity. In Christ he has been brought near! Truly made part of the family of God.)

Conclusion:

Walk it out through the Word

Walk it out Together

Walk it out as a Testimony (Words & Actions)