



# Acts

Amplifying Hope | October 1, 2023

**Topic:** Philip - Interpersonal

**Scripture:** Acts 8

**Summary:** The book of Acts records the growth of the church from the time of Christ's Ascension to the spreading of the church to other nations. Jesus clearly gave instruction in Acts 1:8 that is defined and revealed throughout Acts and the New Testament all the way to today. You are the continuation of Jesus' words that His followers would become his witnesses! There are many different approaches to faith-sharing (witnessing, evangelism). God has shaped each one of you to believe and to share Jesus without fear! How has He shaped you for being His witness? Are you being faithful as His witness? Last week, the sermon focused on Stephen in Acts 7 and his confrontational-direct style of sharing His faith. Today in Acts 8 you will see Phillip's interpersonal-relational style of faith-sharing. May the Holy Spirit guide you and strengthen you in sharing your faith amplifying hope across the Coast and wherever the Lord sends you!

## Acts 8:1

And Saul approved of his execution. And there arose on that day a great persecution against the church in Jerusalem, and they were all scattered throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria, except the apostles.

- The persecution of the church in Jerusalem by Saul and others resulted in the fulfillment of Acts 1:8.
- God is always in control. Even when we cannot see Him or what we do see is ungodly, ugly and evil, God is still in control and using everything, wasting nothing to accomplish His will and to glorify His name.

### **Acts 8:2-3**

Devout men buried Stephen and made great lamentation over him. But Saul was ravaging the church, and entering house after house, he dragged off men and women and committed them to prison.

- How did Saul's ravaging the church impact the Gospel message?
- When God saved Saul, He sent this message: "I can save anyone, anywhere, anytime no matter what they have done." No one is so far away from God that God cannot reach him, save him, prepare him, and use him. Not Saul the persecutor of the church! Not a Eunuch from Ethiopia! Not you! Not me! Not the person next door! Not the server at your table! Not the mechanic, the teacher, the attorney, the criminal, the teenage shooter! No one is beyond God's reach through you.

### **Acts 8:4-8**

Now those who were scattered went about preaching the word. Philip went down to the city of Samaria and proclaimed to them the Christ. And the crowds with one accord paid attention to what was being said by Philip, when they heard him and saw the signs that he did. For unclean spirits, crying out with a loud voice, came out of many who had them, and many who were paralyzed or lame were healed. So there was much joy in that city.

- Philip had occasion to share the good news of Jesus to many people in a city and later in a chariot to one man. Both are extremely important.
- Don't discount the witnessing or salvation of each individual.

## **1. Rise and Go (Acts 8:26-40)**

SOLUTION: There must always be a balance in the church between those who are leading and those who are serving. The Apostles continued to focus on the ministry of prayer and the Word. The spiritual needs of the congregation. The Deacons were to focus on the more physical needs of the congregation.

### **Acts 8:26-27**

Now an angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Rise and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." This is a desert place. And he rose and went. And there was an Ethiopian, a eunuch, a court official of Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, who was in charge of all her treasure. He had come to Jerusalem to worship

## **2. Be on the Look Out (Acts 8:27-28)**

### **3. Listen for Spiritual Prompting (Acts 8:29)**

### **4. Interpersonal Faith-Sharing Puts Others First (Acts 8:30-34)**

- Who are you? Where are you from? Who do you know? Where did you receive your copy of Isaiah? What have you been doing? Where are you going?
- I'm interested in you. I like you. Let's be friends.
- Not everyone can use this style or should but for those who do, there are strengths and cautions.

### **5. Open Your Mouth! (Acts 8:35-38)**

### **6. Everywhere You Go! (Acts 8:39-40)**

## **Life Application Questions**

1. Who shared their faith with you before you received Christ as your Savior? Tell the story.
2. How did they share your faith? Were they confrontational? Were they interpersonal? What faith-sharing style did they use?
3. Was your response to the Gospel impacted by the person and/or the style they used to share their faith with you? In what ways?
4. Have you shared your faith with others? What strategies have you used? Did you use Scripture? What is your style?
5. Stephen was confrontational in Acts 7. Philip was interpersonal in Acts 8. Take the test here ([perimeter.org/files/4394/?r=868064192](http://perimeter.org/files/4394/?r=868064192) ) to begin to see what your style of faith-sharing might be.
6. PRAY: Commit to share your faith with others. Yes, it's called evangelism! Yes, you are called to be a witness. Yes, the Holy Spirit will help you. ASK HIM TO!!!