



“GO WITH THE GREAT COMMISSION!”

ACTS Chapter 8

> Observe and “Go4God” with these three GOSPEL power points:

- Power point #1 - (v1-4) **PERSECUTION PROPAGATES THE GOSPEL!**
- Power point #2 - (v5-8) **PHILIP, A MAN ON A GREAT COMMISSION!**
- Power point #3 - (v26-40) **WORLD MISSIONS, FIRST STOP - ETHIOPIA!**

> **Power point #1 - (v1-4) PERSECUTION PROPAGATES THE GOSPEL!**

(v1-2) Gospel spreads from Jerusalem to Judea to Samaria. (Lamentation for Stephen.)

(v3) Saul wreaks “*havoc*” (like a wild animal) upon the believers in Jesus Christ.

- Saul, later in Christ, Paul testifies of this brutality in Acts 26:9-11 - *“Indeed, I myself thought I must do many things contrary to the name of Jesus of Nazareth. This I also did in Jerusalem, and many of the saints I shut up in prison, having received authority from the chief priests; and when they were put to death, I cast my vote against them. And I punished them often in every synagogue and compelled them to blaspheme; and being exceedingly enraged against them, I persecuted them even to foreign cities.*”

(v4) “Believers preach the Word!” – Preach (Greek - *Kerusso*) to herald, to proclaim. What did they preach? **The Word!** – *Psalm 119:130 – The entrance of Your words gives light; it gives understanding to the simple; Jeremiah 15:6 – Your words were found, and I ate them, and Your word was to me the joy and rejoicing of my heart; for I am called by Your name, O LORD God of hosts. John 5:39 – Your search the Scriptures, for in them you think you have eternal life; and these are they which testify of Me. Mark 16:15 – Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature.*

- Let us preach God’s salvation! It is threefold:

- First, Christ appeared on this earth to **SAVE YOU** from the penalty of sin, by putting away your sin by the sacrifice of Himself on the cross (Hebrews 9:26).

- Second, Christ appeared in heaven, in the presence of God, after His resurrection, to save you **from the POWER OF SIN** (Hebrews 9:26); 1 John 2:1-2).

- Third, Jesus will appear again on this earth, the second time, as “LORD of lords and KING of kings. (Revelation 17:14) **to save you from the very PRESENCE OF SIN** (Hebrews 9:28).

> **Power point #2 - (v5-8) PHILIP, A MAN ON A GREAT COMMISSION!!!**

- **Who is this Philip?** Philip's name means "lover of horses." Philip was like one riding a horse preaching the gospel, like a Paul Revere. Philip was an evangelist, one of the seven men chosen to serve the early church because they were reported to be "*full of faith and the Holy Spirit*" (Acts 6:5). Their task was to look after the Greek speaking widows and probably all the poor in the Jerusalem church. Following the stoning of Stephen, the first Christian martyr, many Christians scattered from Jerusalem (Acts 8:1). Philip became an evangelist and, in Samaria, preached the gospel, worked miracles, and brought many to faith in Christ (Acts 8:5-8).

Probably the most noted conversion because of Philip's ministry was the ETHIOPIAN EUNUCH, an official of great authority under Candace, the queen of the Ethiopians. Philip met the Ethiopian eunuch on the road from Jerusalem to Gaza. The eunuch was reading from Isa 53, the passage about the SUFFERING SERVANT. Philip used this great opportunity to preach Jesus to him. The eunuch said, "I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God" (Acts 8:37). Then Philip baptized the eunuch.

After this event, Philip preached in Azotus (the Old Testament Ashdod) and Caesarea (Acts 8:40). He was still in Caesarea many years later when the apostle Paul passed through the city on his last journey to Jerusalem (Acts 21:8). Luke adds that Philip had "four virgin daughters who prophesied" (Acts 21:9). (from Nelson's Illustrated Bible Dictionary)

(v5) What of this City of Samaria? – The ancient capital of the northern kingdom of Israel, which eventually fell to the Assyrians (722 B.C.) after over 200 years of idolatry and rebellion against God. After resettling many of the people in other lands, the Assyrians located Gentiles from other areas into the region, resulting in a mix of Jews and Gentiles who became known as Samaritans.

(v6-8) Philip preached Christ to this great city with amazing grace results!

(v9-11) Believers must realize that when God moves Satan will move through persecution or deception, thus enters Simon the sorcery.

- Sorcery or magic which originally referred to the practices of the Medo-Persians; a mixture of science and superstition, which includes astrology, divination, and the occult.

- What does the Word of God say about sorcery:

Deuteronomy 18:10-14 - *There shall not be found among you anyone who makes his son or his daughter pass through the fire, or one who practices witchcraft, or a soothsayer, or one who interprets omens, or a sorcerer, or one who conjures spells, or a medium, or a spiritist, or one who calls up the dead. For all who do these things are an abomination to the LORD, and because of these abominations the LORD your God drives them out from before you. You shall be blameless before the LORD your God. For these nations which you will*

dispossess listened to soothsayers and diviners; but as for you, the LORD your God has not appointed such for you.

2 Chronicles 33:6-7 - Also he (Manasseh, an evil king over Judah for 55years) caused his sons to pass through the fire in the Valley of the Son of Hinnom; he practiced soothsaying, used witchcraft and sorcery, and consulted mediums and spiritists. He did much evil in the sight of the LORD, to provoke Him to anger.

Revelation 21:7-8 - He who overcomes shall inherit all things, and I will be his God and he shall be My son. But the cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death."

> Power point #3 - (v26-40) WORLD MISSIONS, FIRST STOP - ETHIOPIA!

- In this passage we experience A.C.T.S. WITNESSING:

Verse 26 – “Arise and go!”

Verses 30-34 – “Come let us reason!”

Verses 35 – “Tell them about JESUS!”

Verses 36-38 – “Salvation invitation!”

(v37) All should come to these seven facts for salvation:

#1 – IT IS A FACT THAT GOD LOVES US!

John 3:16 - For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

#2 – IT IS A FACT THAT WE ARE ALL SINNERS!

Romans 3:23 - for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

#3 – IT IS A FACT THAT WE ARE DEAD IN SIN!

Romans 6:23 -For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

#4 – IT IS A FACT THAT CHRIST DIED FOR ALL!

Romans 5:6-8 - For when we were still without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. For scarcely for a righteous man will one die; yet perhaps for a good man someone would even dare to die. But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

#5 – IT IS A FACT THAT WE ARE SAVED BY FAITH IN JESUS CHRIST!

Acts 16:30-31 - And he brought them out and said, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" So they said, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved, you and your household."

#6 – IT IS A FACT THAT WE ARE SAVED AND KNOW IT!

1 John 5:10-13 - The one who believes in the Son of God has the witness in himself; the one who does not believe God has made Him a liar, because he has not believed in the witness that God has borne concerning His Son. And the witness is this, that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. He who has the Son has the life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have the life. These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, in order that you may know that you have eternal life.

#7 – IT IS A FACT THAT WE ARE A CHILD OF GOD AND WE LOVE TO OBEY HIM!

Acts 5:29 - Then Peter and the apostles replied, we must obey God rather than men.

(v39-40) “caught” is harpazo in Greek, which means - to seize or to carry off by force!

In other words, Philip is on the move, literally flying high as a soul-winner for Christ!!!