

A conceptual image featuring a tree with roots growing from an open book, symbolizing knowledge and expansion. The tree is bare, with its branches reaching upwards. Red maple leaves are scattered around the tree and falling from the sky. The background is a soft, warm gradient of orange and yellow, suggesting a sunset or sunrise. The open book is resting on a wooden surface.

# Our Roots

## EXPANDING THE BORDERS

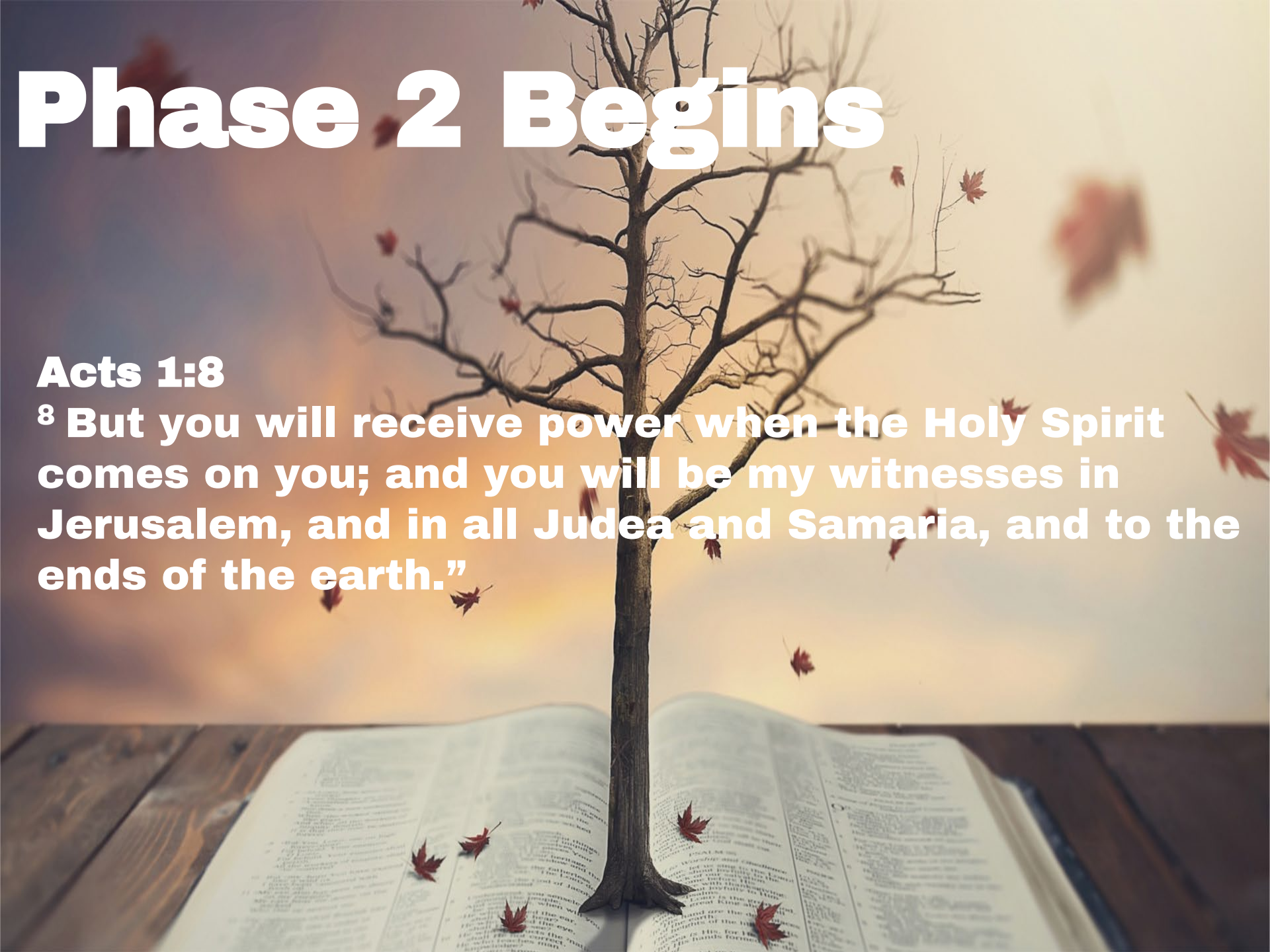
# **Snatching victory from the jaws of defeat**

**Acts 8:1-4 And Saul approved of their killing him. On that day a great persecution broke out against the church in Jerusalem, and all except the apostles were scattered throughout Judea and Samaria.**

**<sup>2</sup> Godly men buried Stephen and mourned deeply for him. <sup>3</sup> But Saul began to destroy the church. Going from house to house, he dragged off both men and women and put them in prison.**

**<sup>4</sup> Those who had been scattered preached the word wherever they went.**

# Phase 2 Begins



**Acts 1:8**

**<sup>8</sup> But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”**

# Philip is on the move

A small, leafless tree with a few red leaves stands on an open Bible. The background is a warm, orange-hued sunset or sunrise sky.

**Acts 8:4-8**

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

# The wrong reason to follow Jesus: Simon

**Acts 8:13**

**<sup>13</sup> Simon himself believed and was baptized. And he followed Philip everywhere, astonished by the great signs and miracles he saw.**

**You can't buy blessings**

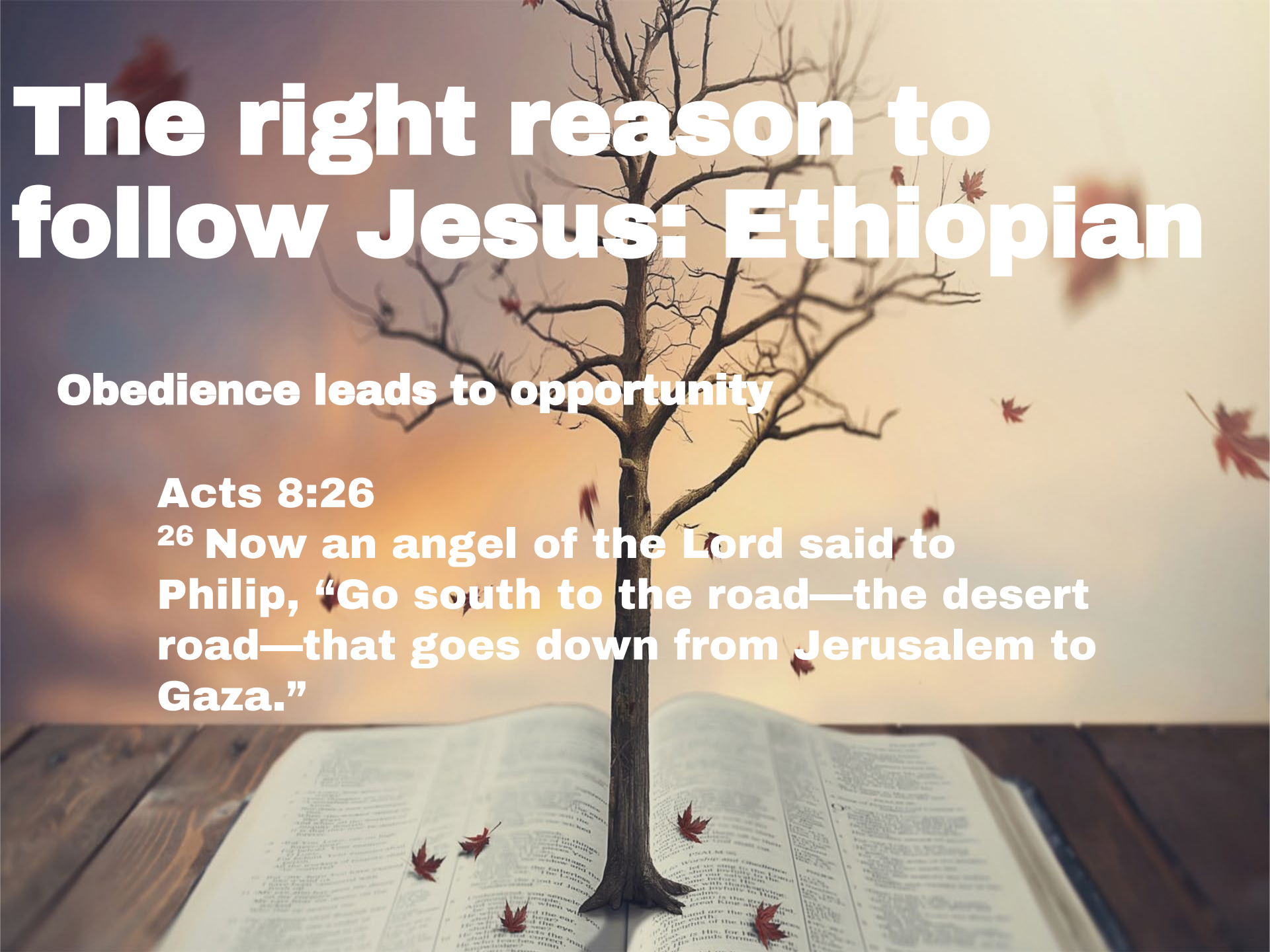


# The right reason to follow Jesus: Ethiopian

Obedience leads to opportunity

Acts 8:26

<sup>26</sup> Now an angel of the Lord said to Philip, “Go south to the road—the desert road—that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.”



# **The right reason to follow Jesus**

**All roads lead to Jesus**

**Acts 8:35**

**<sup>35</sup> Then Philip began with that very passage of Scripture and told him the good news about Jesus.**

**All Barriers between you and God have been removed**

**Acts 8:36**

**<sup>36</sup> 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?"**

# Conversion leads to joy



**Acts 8:39**

**<sup>39</sup> 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.**