

4-16-2016, COTR Texarkana

Title: Purpose and Power

Purpose: Provoke people to pursue the power of the Spirit to reach people for Christ.

Spiritual Truth: I can reach people for Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Text: Acts chapter 6 and 8

Topic: Heroes, Philip, Supernatural, Witnessing, Purpose

Series: Heroes

Series Purpose: Provoke people to follow the example of Biblical heroes.

Purpose and Power

I. Introduction

A. Review: Series “Heroes”

1. Listen to messages @ChurchOnTheRock.org or on the COTR iPhone/ Android app
2. Def. Hero: someone we admire for their achievements or character; someone we want to be like.
3. Last week we talked about the courage and conviction of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego. Convictions are strongly held beliefs and courage is doing right when everyone else is doing wrong. Jesus expects us to have courage to stand for our convictions in a world that is turning its back on God and the Bible.

B. Today we’ll talk about Philip, an ordinary guy committed to reaching people for Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit. He’s one my heroes! He wasn’t a great apostle; he was simply a servant of Jesus on a mission from God, depending on the Holy Spirit to change lives. I want to be like him!

C. Title: Purpose and Power

D. Purpose: Provoke people to pursue the power of the Spirit to reach people for Christ.

E. Spiritual Truth: I can reach people for Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit.

II. God uses ordinary people to do amazing things

A. Acts 6:1–6 (ESV) ...Now in these days...a complaint by the Hellenists arose against the Hebrews because their widows were being neglected in the daily distribution. 2 And the twelve summoned...the disciples and said, “It is not right that we should give up **preaching the word of God** to serve tables. 3 Therefore, brothers, pick out from among you seven men of good repute, **full of the Spirit** and of wisdom, whom we will appoint to this duty...5 And what they said pleased the whole gathering, and they chose Stephen, **a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, and Philip...**

1. Philip the deacon/ servant. He was an ordinary guy committed to reaching people for Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit.
2. 3 criteria for deacons: (1) good reputation/ character/ fruit of the HS; (2) wisdom: the ability to understand the issues and make good decisions; (3) full of the Spirit: under the control of the Spirit, using the gifts of the HS, acting under the guidance of the HS, allowing the HS to use you.

III. When purpose and power come together amazing things happen

- A. **Context: persecution Acts 8:1–40 (ESV)** Now those who were scattered went about preaching the word. 5 **Philip** went down to the city of Samaria and **proclaimed to them the Christ**. 6 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. 7 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**.
- B. **Philip was a man on a mission from Jesus**. What is your mission in life? What does God expect of us?
1. Mt 28:19 (ESV) Go therefore and make disciples of all nations (*NCV all people in the world*)... This is our primary Purpose: telling people about Jesus so they can know God, have a better life now and go to heaven later. This is why COTR exists, to “connect people to God...world”, invite cards, Ministry Guide, My Test., Gideon.
 2. What is your mission in life? Our greatest legacy isn’t trophies, hobbies, wealth but reaching people for Jesus. Is this your mission? How long has it been since you told someone about Jesus? How much time and \$ do you invest in God’s work?
- C. **Philip did more than talk to people; the power of the HS was working in him**, vs.6-7
1. Can we expect the power of the Holy Spirit to help us reach people today? Is the Book of Acts church history or a model to follow? Christians are divided but Jesus was clear to the early church. Acts 1:8 (ESV) But you will receive **power** when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my **witnesses**...
 2. The question we must ask is the power of the Spirit available today? Def. Cessationism: is the doctrine that spiritual gifts like prophecy and healing ceased with the original twelve apostles. (Philip wasn’t an apostle. He was a deacon.) They believe since we have the Bible spiritual gifts are no longer needed. Continuationism says the Holy Spirit may bestow spiritual gifts on believers other than the original twelve apostles at any time. Wikipedia
 3. How do we know which view is right? Look at the NT model. Reaching people with the power of the HS was how Jesus did ministry. He taught 12, 70 and then the early church followed their example. Nowhere in the Bible is there clear Scripture that says the work of the HS should cease. Signs and wonders are recorded throughout church history. I choose to believe in the work of the HS today. How about you?
 4. Video testimony

IV. The Holy Spirit is the source of supernatural power

- A. **Verse 14** Now when the apostles at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had **received the word of God**, they sent to them **Peter and John**, 15 who came down and **prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit**, 16 for he had not yet fallen on any of them, but they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. 17 Then they laid their hands on them and they received the Holy Spirit. 25...they returned to Jerusalem, **preaching the gospel** to many villages of the Samaritans.

1. The early church realized the importance of welcoming the HS and clearly believed in an encounter with the HS after salvation. Acts 19:1–6 (ESV)...Paul...came to Ephesus. There he found some **disciples**. 2 And he said to them, “**Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?**” And they said, “No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit.” 3 And he said, “Into what then were you baptized?” They said, “Into John’s baptism...5 On hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. 6 And when Paul had laid his hands on them, **the Holy Spirit came on them**, and they began speaking in tongues and prophesying.
2. This is where Philip’s power came from. It wasn’t spooky or weird. This was normal NT Christianity. I’ve seen spooky/weird in the charismatic church. If they had an encounter with the HS shouldn’t we?

V. The Holy Spirit wants to lead us to people who need Jesus

- A. Verse 26 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.”...27 And **he rose and went**. 27 And there was an Ethiopian...a court official of Candace, queen of the Ethiopians...He had come to Jerusalem to worship 28 and was returning...reading the prophet Isaiah. 29 And **the Spirit said to Philip**, “Go over and join this chariot.” 30 So **Philip ran to him** and heard him reading Isaiah the prophet and asked, “Do you understand what you are reading?” 31 And he said, “How can I, unless someone guides me... 35 Then Philip...**told him the good news about Jesus**.

1. Purpose and power is how the gospel got to North Africa. // what if Walmart suicide

VI. **Concl.: Receiving guidance from the Holy Spirit was common in the NT**

- A. Acts 16:6–10 (NIV) Paul and his companions...having been **kept (ESV forbidden) by the Holy Spirit from preaching the word** in the province of Asia. 7 When they came to the border of Mysia, they tried to enter Bithynia, but **the Spirit of Jesus would not allow them** to...9...Paul had a **vision** of a man...begging him, “Come over to Macedonia and help us.” 10 After Paul had seen the vision, we got ready at once to leave for Macedonia, concluding that **God had called us to preach the gospel to them**. (The gospel went west to Europe and ultimately to America instead of east to India.)

1. Imagine the possibilities if we let the HS lead us to reach people for Jesus.

- B. **Philip was an ordinary guy committed to reaching people for Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit**. He’s my hero. I want to be like him. I want my primary purpose to reach people for Jesus with the power of the HS. Let’s stand and ask Him to give us His power to reach people for Christ.

VII. Response

- A. Prayer
- B. Souls
- C. *** Logos Bible Software and library were used to prepare this message.