

March 3, 2019
THE GOD I NEVER KNEW - Part 6
“The Spirit Leads”

The Holy Spirit leads us through...

- Scripture
- teachings or conversations with others
- direct communication (leadings of the Holy Spirit)

Acts 8:1 (NIV): “...On that day a great persecution broke out against the church at Jerusalem, and all except the apostles were scattered throughout Judea and Samaria.”

Jesus: “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.”
(**Acts 1:8** NIV - *emphasis added*)

God used Stephen’s stoning to spread of the Gospel.

Acts 8:26 (NIV): “Now an angel of the Lord said to Philip, ‘Go south to the road – the desert road – that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.’”

Acts 8:27-28 (NIV): “²⁷So he started out, and on his way he met an Ethiopian eunuch, an important official in charge of all the treasury of Candace, queen of the Ethiopians. This man had gone to Jerusalem to worship, ²⁸and on his way home was sitting in his chariot reading the book of Isaiah the prophet.”

God has arranged this whole event, timing Philip’s arrival on this road as the Ethiopian is riding by in his chariot.

Acts 8:29 (NIV): “The Spirit told Philip, ‘Go to that chariot and stay near it.’”

Acts 8:30 (NIV): “Then Philip ran up to the chariot and heard the man reading Isaiah the prophet. ‘Do you understand what you are reading?’ Philip asked.”

Sometimes the Holy Spirit will lead us to a very specific action, and *we* have to be paying attention to be the hands, feet and voice of Jesus to engage that person.

Acts 8:31 (NIV): “‘How can I,’ he said, ‘unless someone explains it to me?’ So he invited Philip to come up and sit with him.”

A divine appointment that all began with Philip simply obeying the leading of the Holy Spirit.

What we overlook is that if the Holy Spirit has brought *us* to such a moment, He's probably been working in the other person, too.

The Spirit wants to grow us increasingly into the image and likeness of Jesus, so he gives *us* opportunities to exercise our faith just as uses us to reach someone else.

Acts 8:32-34 (NIV): "32The eunuch was reading this passage of Scripture: 'He was led like a sheep to the slaughter, and as a lamb before the shearer is silent, so he did not open his mouth. 33In his humiliation he was deprived of justice. Who can speak of his descendants? For his life was taken from the earth.' 34The eunuch asked Philip, 'Tell me, please, who is the prophet talking about, himself or someone else?'"

Isaiah 53:4-6 (NIV): "4Surely he took up our infirmities and carried our sorrows, yet we considered him stricken by God, smitten by him, and afflicted. 5But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed. 6We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all."

Acts 8:35 (NIV): "Then Philip began with that very passage of Scripture and told him the good news about Jesus."

The Spirit used Philip's witness to convict the Ethiopian that he needed to repent of his sins and confess his faith in Jesus Christ.

Acts 8:36-39 (NIV): "36As they traveled along the road, they came to some water and the eunuch said, 'Look, here is water. Why shouldn't I be baptized?' 38And he gave orders to stop the chariot. Then both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water and Philip baptized him. 39When 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."

A seemingly chance encounter on a desolate road by a persecuted Christian and an Ethiopian official, 500 hundred miles from home, would lead to the evangelization of the Ethiopia.

The Holy Spirit wants to lead me to love God and love our neighbor by going and making disciples of Jesus Christ.

QUESTIONS:

- Do I want to be used by the Spirit?
- Am I listening for the Spirit?
- Am I acting when I sense the Spirit leading me?

We may or may not see results of what we feel led by the Spirit to do, but by faith we can trust that anything we do that's faithful to the Spirit will impact eternity.

Galatians 5:19-23 (NLT): “¹⁹When you follow the desires of your sinful nature, the results are very clear: sexual immorality, impurity, lustful pleasures, ²⁰idolatry, sorcery, hostility, quarreling, jealousy, outbursts of anger, selfish ambition, dissension, division, ²¹envy, drunkenness, wild parties, and other sins like these. Let me tell you again, as I have before, that anyone living that sort of life will not inherit the Kingdom of God. ²²But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against these things!”

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