

One Life, One Yes: How Ordinary People Can Change the World for God

There is a temptation that runs deep in the modern Christian mind -- a temptation that pulls in two opposite directions at once. On one side is the belief that everything is about us, that we are the central character in a grand story written for our benefit. On the other side is the belief that we are too small, too broken, too ordinary to matter at all. Both of these ideas are wrong. And both of them will keep us from the life God has actually called us to live.

The truth sits somewhere far more compelling than either extreme. We are not the main character -- He is. But by His grace, we get to be part of a story He is still writing. And the question worth sitting with today is this: what is on the other side of your 'yes' to God?

Philip and the Power of Showing Up

In Acts 8, we meet a man named Philip. He is not an apostle. He is not a great theologian or a celebrated leader. He was a deacon in the early church in Jerusalem -- a man appointed to serve tables and care for the practical needs of a growing community. But when persecution scattered that community, Philip found himself on the run, landing in Samaria, a region most Jews avoided entirely.

He had not been formally sent. He had not been commissioned with a grand title or a big ministry plan. He was simply a man who had been scattered, possibly by fear, and yet carried something with him that could not be contained: the gospel of Jesus Christ and the power of the Holy Spirit.

So he preached. And people were healed. And a city experienced great joy.

This is the part that deserves careful attention. Philip was not operating out of a position of strength or status. He was operating out of surrender. He understood that the same Spirit who raised Jesus from the dead lived inside of him -- not as a reward for spiritual achievement, but as a gift given to every believer. That same Spirit lives in every person who has placed their faith in Christ. The question is not whether we have been given the power. The question is whether we are willing to trust Him to work through us with that power.

The Angel, the Chariot, and the Desert Road

What happens next in Philip's story is one of the most striking moments in the book of Acts. An angel of the Lord tells Philip to leave the revival happening in Samaria and travel down a desert road toward Gaza. No explanation is given. No guarantee of what he will find there. Just a direction and a destination.

Philip goes immediately.

Along that road, he encounters an Ethiopian official -- a man of considerable wealth and influence, sitting in his chariot and reading from the scroll of Isaiah. The Spirit tells Philip to go near the chariot. Philip runs.

The Ethiopian is reading a passage about a figure led like a sheep to slaughter, silent before his accusers, humiliated and deprived of justice -- a passage from Isaiah 53 that points directly to Jesus. He does not understand what he is reading. He has no one to explain it to him. And so he asks.

Philip answers.

That is the simple truth of what took place. A man heard from God, obeyed immediately, showed up where God directed him, and answered a question when someone asked. Nothing about it required a platform or a seminary degree or a ministry title. It required availability, obedience, and a working knowledge of who Jesus is and what He has done.

The Ethiopian believes. He is baptized in water they find along the road. And then Philip is suddenly taken away by the Spirit, and the Ethiopian continues his journey home -- rejoicing. He carries the gospel back to Ethiopia with him. One conversation on a desert road, and an entire nation begins to be reached.

The Yes That Echoes Through Generations

Philip's story does not end there. He continues preaching through towns along the coast, eventually settling in Caesarea. Years later, when the apostle Paul passes through that same region, he finds established communities of believers. Seeds Philip planted. Ground Philip prepared. An inheritance that carried Paul's ministry forward without Philip ever receiving the credit.

This is how the Kingdom of God actually works. Most of the people who change the world for Christ are never remembered by name. The person who led Billy Graham to faith in Jesus was largely unknown to the world. And yet that act of obedience echoes through millions of lives across generations. Your name may never be remembered. But the difference you make in obedience to God will reverberate into eternity.

Three Questions Worth Sitting With

The life of Philip, and the lives of so many others throughout Scripture -- a former demoniac sent to evangelize ten cities, a fisherman who denied Christ and then led the early church, a persecutor of Christians who became its greatest missionary -- all of them point to the same reality. God does not call the qualified. He qualifies the called. And the only credential that ultimately matters is a willingness to say yes.

So here are three questions worth carrying with you today.

Do you trust Him? Not in theory, but in practice. Enough to go where He sends you, even when it does not make sense.

Have you heard Him? He is speaking -- through His Word, through prayer, through the community of believers around you. The question is whether we are creating enough stillness to actually listen.

Are you doing what He has called you to do? Not what someone else is called to do. Not the thing that would make you look impressive. The specific, ordinary, sometimes inconvenient thing He is asking of you right now.

The rest of your story has not yet been written. Philip was just a man on the run who opened his mouth. And nations were changed because of it.

Whose eternity is on the other side of your 'yes'?