

Acts 8:26-40

Ran with Chariots

AC 8:26 Now an angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Go south to the road--the desert road--that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." ²⁷ So 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, ²⁸ and on his way home was sitting in his chariot reading the book of Isaiah the prophet. ²⁹ **The Spirit told Philip, "Go to that chariot and stay near it."**

AC 8:30 Then Philip ran up to the chariot and heard the man reading Isaiah the prophet. **"Do you understand what you are reading?" Philip asked.**

AC 8:31 **"How can I," he said, "unless someone explains it to me?" So he invited Philip to come up and sit with him.**

AC 8:32 The 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.

AC 8:33 In his humiliation he was deprived of justice.
Who can speak of his descendants?
For his life was taken from the earth."

AC 8:34 The eunuch asked Philip, "Tell me, please, who is the prophet talking about, himself or someone else?" ³⁵ **Then Philip began with that very passage of Scripture and told him the good news about Jesus.**

AC 8:36 As they traveled along the road, they came to some water and the eunuch said, **"Look, here is water. Why shouldn't I be baptized?"** ³⁸ And he gave orders to stop the chariot. Then both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water and Philip baptized him. ³⁹ 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. ⁴⁰ Philip,

however, appeared at Azotus and traveled about, preaching the gospel in all the towns until he reached Caesarea.

1. Listen to the Spirit's prompting.

The Spirit told Philip, "Go to that chariot and stay near it."

Yeh right- How do you know the Spirit is prompting or instructing?

Special divine leadership is for all Christians not just for special cases in the bible.

The Holy Spirit is part of our life. John 14:16 - **And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counselor to be with you forever**—For those who have a relationship with Jesus – they have the Holy Spirit as part of their lives.

The hard thing is working out what the Spirit is saying.. A couple of ideas.

- a. To find out more about how the Holy Spirit works – check the bible.
- b. The Holy Spirit will not prompt you to do something that goes against the bible's standards,
- c. The Holy Spirit's work in us is about God's work – not selfish gain.
- d. The Holy Spirit teaches. **John 14:26 But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.**
- e. The Holy Spirit is God – treat His prompting with respect.

2. Ask the right questions.

. "Do you understand what you are reading?" Philip asked.

I recently saw some young guys street preaching. One guy was preaching and two guys handed out tracts. The preacher was really quite good but no-one was listening. Why? Street preaching doesn't work. Perhaps. More than anything- he didn't engage the people going past. He wasn't addressing the people's issues.

Philip asked the right question. The guy was reading and wanted to understand.

What are the people we know and want to witness to reading? Not the bible. But most things on TV and in books they read have discussion issues in them. People read and watch what interests them so look for those things in those TV shows or books that are issues.

Eg, -You buy a new Car and you see exactly that model everywhere.

The thing is to use these interest points as entrance points to talk to people. But hey you have to be part of their lives to know what the issues are.

3. Answer the questions – biblically, appropriately.

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

If someone is grieving – trying to talk to them about the Genesis creation is pointless. Deal with real issues.

Jesus did. He dealt with what people felt and experienced. Look at the way He preached – Used parables and illustrations from real life.

Sure we want to give them a Spiritual thing. But pain is physical and present – here and now. Most of us as christians cant get past the physical and present why do we expect people we witness to, to understand straight away.

Philip began with what the guy was reading and told him the good news of Jesus.

Way to go. That's the example. That's the principle. Start where they are at.

4. Allow people to grow.

"Look, here is water. Why shouldn't I be baptized?"

This last point is about letting people grow. The fastest rate of Spiritual growth nearly always happens just after people believe in Jesus. Let their excitement allow them to grow. Here we have the guy saying – look baptism is next – let me do it.

Actually it should be our attitude always. What is next – let's do it. Doesn't matter how long we have been christians. What is next with God – and go for it.

What is next for you – Baptism, membership, , going to bible study, starting a new bible study, starting a new ministry, becoming a deacon, helping people get disciplined. What's next.

If someone says Look why shouldn't I be baptised our reaction should be. You believe in Jesus? Let's do it.

If someone wants to start a ministry? Yeh let's do it.

This applies to you, to us. What is the next step with God?