

Midweek Study



Dr. Josh Franklin • Senior Pastor

Join This Chariot

Acts 8:26-40

I. THE **CALL** OF THE **SPIRIT** (Acts 8:26-27)

"Now an angel of the Lord spoke to Philip, saying, 'Arise and go toward the south along the road which goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.' This is desert. So he arose and went." (NKJV)

- A. **God's Confusing Direction** - Philip left a revival where thousands were being saved and sent to a desert road with no explanation. This would be like Billy Graham stopping mid-crusade to go to one person.
- B. **Our Willing Submission** - Sometimes God calls us from the crowd to the individual. *"Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths" (Proverbs 3:5-6, NKJV)* "I pray and I obey" - overseas pastor's success formula.

II. THE **CONTACT** WITH THE **SEEKER** (Acts 8:27-30)

"And behold, a man of Ethiopia, a eunuch of great authority under Candace the queen of the Ethiopians, who had charge of all her treasury, and had come to Jerusalem to worship, was returning. And sitting in his chariot, he was reading Isaiah the prophet." (NKJV)

- A. **This Ethiopian eunuch** - royal treasurer with significant wealth - had traveled hundreds of miles to worship in Jerusalem. Now traveling back, he's reading Scripture but needing guidance. *"And you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart" (Jeremiah 29:13, NKJV)*
- B. **Barriers Broken Down**
 - Racial barrier (Ethiopian/Jewish)
 - Cultural barrier (Gentile/Jewish)
 - Class barrier (common preacher/royal official)
 - The Gospel breaks down all walls (**Ephesians 2:19**)
- C. **The Spirit's Direction**
 - *"Go near and overtake this chariot" (v. 29)*
 - Philip ran with determination
 - **Application: Divine appointments happen in everyday life! (Matthew 28:19 – "...As you go...")**

III. THE CONVERSATION ABOUT THE SAVIOR (Acts 8:30-35)

"So Philip ran to him, and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah, and said, 'Do you understand what you are reading?' And he said, 'How can I, unless someone guides me?'" (NKJV)

- A. **Tactical Evangelism Approach** - Philip listened first - heard him reading, then asked a relevant question about his interest (what he was reading). Philip was invited into the conversation, and he used Scripture as the bridge to conversation. POINT: Avoid evangelism extremes ("lifestyle only" vs. "bull in a china shop" approach). Balance is best – boldness + answers + godly lifestyle!!
- B. **Jesus is the Hero of Scripture** – The Ethiopian was reading Isaiah 53 (the suffering Servant prophecy – 700 years before Christ). All Old Testament points to Christ; New Testament points back to Him. *"Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning at this Scripture, preached Jesus to him" (v. 35, NKJV)*

IV. THE COMMITMENT THROUGH SUBMISSION (Acts 8:36-39)

"Now as they went down the road, they came to some water. And the eunuch said, 'See, here is water. What hinders me from being baptized?' Then Philip said, 'If you believe with all your heart, you may.' And he answered and said, 'I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.'" (NKJV)

- A. **No Delay Required** – The Ethiopian confessed simply: "I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God" and was baptized immediately (on the same day of his conversion). Don't postpone obedience waiting for perfect doctrine.
- B. **The Meaning of Baptism** - Greek "baptizo" = to immerse or plunge. Baptism is a outward sign of an inward change. **It is the public declaration of faith in Christ.** *"Both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water, and he baptized him" (v. 38, NKJV)*
- C. **God Handles the Follow-up!!** The Ethiopian "went on his way rejoicing". *"When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord caught Philip away" (v. 39, NKJV)*

"Being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ" (Philippians 1:6, NKJV)

ONE PRACTICAL APPLICATION: THE 5-5-5 PLAN

Write down 5 names of lost people, then choose one of these 5 actions to do for 5 weeks (5-5-5):

1. **PRAY** for them regularly
2. **INVITE** them to church
3. **SERVE** them in practical ways
4. **GIVE** them gospel literature/tracts
5. **SPEAK** the gospel to them directly

Remember:

- You don't need a PhD to share what Jesus did for you - "I once was blind, but now I see" - simple testimony works.
- Be ready for divine appointments in everyday life, and listen for the Spirit's prompting to "join their chariot".