



Power From on High

Series: Power From On High.

Title: Run, Philip, run!

Lesson: 53

Text: Acts 8:25-40

Date: Sept 3, 2023

Acts 1:8 but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth.”

Acts 8:25–40 So, when they had solemnly testified and spoken the word of the Lord, they started back to Jerusalem, and were preaching the gospel to many villages of the Samaritans. But an angel of the Lord spoke to Philip saying, “Get up and go south to the road that descends from Jerusalem to Gaza.” (This is a desert road.) 27 So he got up and went; and there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, who was in charge of all her treasure; and he had come to Jerusalem to worship, 28 and he was returning and sitting in his chariot, and was reading the prophet Isaiah. 29 Then the Spirit said to Philip, “Go up and join this chariot.” 30 Philip ran up and heard him reading Isaiah the prophet, and said, “Do you understand what you are reading?” 31 And he said, “Well, how could I, unless someone guides me?” And he invited Philip to come up and sit with him.

32 Now the passage of Scripture which he was reading was this: “He was led as a sheep to slaughter; And as a lamb before its shearer is silent, So He does not open His mouth. 33 “In

humiliation His judgment was taken away; Who will relate His generation? For His life is removed from the earth.” 34 The eunuch answered Philip and said, “Please tell me, of whom does the prophet say this? Of himself or of someone else?” 35 Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning from this Scripture he preached Jesus to him. 36 As they went along the road they came to some water; and the eunuch said, “Look! Water! What prevents me from being baptized?”

37 And 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.” 38 And he ordered the chariot to stop; and they both went down into the water, Philip as well as the eunuch, and he baptized him. 39 When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; and the eunuch no longer saw him, but went on his way rejoicing.

40 But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he passed through he kept preaching the gospel to all the cities until he came to Caesarea.

Three essential elements to salvation:

1. God’s sovereignty

Romans 8:29–30 For those whom He **foreknew**, He also **predestined** to become conformed to the image of His Son, so that He would be the firstborn among many brethren; 30 and these whom He predestined, He also **called**; and these whom He called, He also **justified**; and these whom He justified, He also **glorified**.

2. The _____

God not only ordains the end, He also ordains the means to achieve that end.

27 So he got up and went; and there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, who was in charge of all her treasure; and he had come to Jerusalem to worship, 28 and he was returning and sitting in his chariot, and was reading the prophet Isaiah.

29 Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go up and join this chariot.

The Holy Spirit _____ us to witness to those God is drawing and preparing to receive the gospel.

30 Philip ran up and heard him reading Isaiah the prophet, and said, "Do you understand what you are reading?"

"ran"

Why did he run?

1. It showed his zeal and excitement for witnessing.
2. It was about timing.

“Do you understand what you are reading?”

Questions

They get attention, draw people in, engage thinking, prompt introspection, and provoke deeper thinking.

31 And he said, “Well, how could I, unless someone guides me?” And he invited Philip to come up and sit with him.

The eunuch is a picture of every seeking soul from the beginning of time.

And he invited Philip to come up and sit with him.

32 Now the passage of Scripture which he was reading was this: “HE WAS LED AS A SHEEP TO SLAUGHTER; AND AS A LAMB BEFORE ITS SHEARER IS SILENT, SO HE DOES NOT OPEN HIS MOUTH. 33 “IN HUMILIATION HIS JUDGMENT WAS TAKEN AWAY; WHO WILL RELATE HIS GENERATION? FOR HIS LIFE IS REMOVED FROM THE EARTH.”

Isaiah chapter 53 is unsurpassed in its description of the Messiah.

(1-2) His birth

(3) His life & ministry

(4-9) His substitutionary death

(10-11) His resurrection

The atonement is pictured from beginning to the end of the Bible in the form of types.

Genesis 3:21 The Lord God made garments of skin for Adam and his wife, and clothed them.

Genesis 22:13 Then Abraham raised his eyes and looked, and behold, behind him a **RAM** caught in the thicket by his horns; and Abraham went and took the ram and offered him up for a burnt offering in the place of his son.

Exodus 12 - At Passover thousands of innocent lambs died for the people of Israel.

34 The eunuch answered Philip and said, "Please tell me, of whom does the prophet say this? Of himself or of someone else?"

35 Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning from this Scripture he preached Jesus to him.

Three essential features of giving the gospel:

1. We must use _____.
2. Our aim is to explain the _____.
3. We must meet people _____.

1 Peter 3:15 but sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always being ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, yet with gentleness and reverence;

God will _____ every genuine, searching heart.

John 10:14–16 "I am the good shepherd, and I **KNOW** My own and My own **KNOW** Me, 15 even as the Father **KNOW** Me and I **KNOW** the Father; and I lay down My life for the **SHEEP**.

16 “I have other sheep, which are not of this fold; I **MUST** bring them also, and they **WILL** hear My voice; and they **WILL** become one flock with one shepherd.

27–28 “My sheep hear My voice, and I **KNOW** them, and they follow Me; 28 and I give eternal life to them, and they will never perish; and no one will snatch them out of My hand.

Three essential elements to salvation:

1. God's sovereignty
2. The gospel
3. Saving _____

But I believe - our text is about conversion for five reasons

1. The eunuch's story is a part of the larger context of the advancing gospel with conversion as the aim.
2. Luke has already established the details of conversion at Pentecost.
3. The fact that he rejoices in verse 39 implies that he got saved, not just baptized.
4. The immediate context aims at showing how important one sinner is to God and how He sets all things in motion to accomplish that end.

5. He got baptized after he explained who Jesus is.

36 As they went along the road they came to some water; and the eunuch said, "Look! Water! What prevents me from being baptized?"

Baptism has two objectives:

1. It is a public profession of faith.
2. It is to be the first act of obedience.

37 And 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."

Footnote - "Early manuscripts do not contain this verse"

Scholars refer to this a **textual variant**.

The typical way a footnote becomes a textual variant is a 3 step process.

1. A scribe added a note next to block of text for clarification.
2. Later copyists assumed it was accidentally left out so they added it in.
3. Even later copyists started copying and multiplying the altered manuscript

38 And he ordered the chariot to stop; and they both went down into the water, Philip as well as the eunuch, and he baptized him. 39 When they came up out of the water,

Was the eunuch sprinkled or immersed?

“Baptized” - Root [bapto] - To dip

“went down into the water,”

“came up out of the water”

the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; and the eunuch no longer saw him, but went on his way rejoicing.

40 But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he passed through he kept preaching the gospel to all the cities until he came to Caesarea.

Implications

1. We need to be willing, obedient, and _____
to give the gospel when opportunity calls.

2. We should look for _____ in Scripture
as a sign that the Spirit is drawing.

3. We should trust God with the _____.

Discussion Guide

1. What do we mean that God not only ordains the end, but He also decrees the means to achieve that end? Reread Romans 8:28-30 to help with the answer.

2. Can you remember a time when the Holy Spirit prompted you to share your faith? Did you resist, hesitate, or did you obey?

3. What did you learn about God's timing as it relates to witnessing?

4. Why are questions so important in our dealing with unbelievers?

5. We learned from our passage that we should initiate conversations to those we want to witness to. What are some conversation starters that might be helpful?



ANSWERS: gospel, prompts, Substitutionary atonement, Scripture, Atonement, where they are, answer, faith, prepared, interest, results

