

Open your Bibles this morning again to Acts 8:

I do appreciate so much being with you these two days and my prayer is that something said or taught might be a catalyst for each of us individually, AND Your church family collectively to “BREAK THROUGH” to another level of Spiritual Growth and usefulness in our walk with Holy God. I desire to remain in a fresh state of spiritual value to HIS ETERNAL KINGDOM and I know that you have that same desire for your own spiritual walk.

You may have missed being with us last night as we thought about listening to the Holy Spirit. We want to catch you up and move forward another step in our study time today.

First, we want to hear the scripture reading for our message. (READ TEXT HERE)

Let us pray for a moment and we will dive into God’s Word.

When we give our lives to Christ, the Holy Spirit comes to live within us. (Our bodies are the temple of the Spirit)

We saw last night 5 very important functions of the Spirit of God in human lives.

1. He is our conviction. We cannot and will not come to Christ apart from the Spirit’s conviction.
2. He is our companion. He walks alongside and is our continual helper when our spiritual journey gets hard, stagnates, or gets sidetracked from Christ.
3. He is our teacher, showing us from the Word of God how to Walk with God.
4. He is our Witness both within and without. We know that we are sons of God because we are led by the spirit.
5. He is our Guide. It is His responsibility to show us how to glorify Christ Jesus in every area of our lives.

So there are three lessons to show you from this particular story that will give direction to every life that desires to obey the Lord.

I. DESIRE THE DIRECTIONS OF THE SPIRIT!! (Acts 8:

God is at work all around us and invites us to join Him in the work He wants to do. We then must decide to obey, adjust our lives, and follow where He guides. We are not responsible for the results but we are responsible for the obedience. ...PHILLIP FOLLOWED THE SPIRIT’S DIRECTION.

1. He did not know the reason. (Salvation)

2. He did not know the person. (Ethiopian)
3. He did not know the outcome. (Egyptians)

The story is told of Ben Franklin and the city of Philadelphia. The city had grown not without cost. There were people who were afraid to get out at night because of the possibility of a robbery. The streets were too dark. Ben Franklin went to the city council and suggested that each family put up a pole in their yard, light a lantern at night, and hang it on the pole. The council thought it was a ridiculous idea and voted it down.

Later that evening however, a lantern could be seen hanging from a pole in the front yard of one of the houses. The next night the neighbors around that house had poles and lanterns and light. Soon most of the city was lit up at night. The darkness and the crime were chased away by the light. One man let his light shine. (MAYBE TODAY THERE IS AN INDIVIDUAL WHO WOULD SAY "I WANT TO FOLLOW THE SPIRIT OF GOD AND BREAK THROUGH IN OBEDIENCE FOR THE ETERNAL GLORY OF GOD'S KINGDOM.")

LET'S MOVE A STEP FURTHER.

II. FIND THE OPPORTUNITIES OF THE SPIRIT! (Acts 8:

When I think of Phillip's opportunity, I see some real challenges that only the Holy Spirit could overcome.

1. The opportunity was unknown to him. Sometimes the Spirit of God is going to take you into unknown territory. It may mean a new friendship with someone that no one else thinks is important. But God thinks that person is important. He wants that person to hear and see the Gospel displayed and you may be the one he chooses to use. Are you available to be used by the Spirit?
2. The opportunity was not explained to him. He was going to a different area with a very important message. He was told to "go."

One pastor was heard quoting this in one of his sermons. "It will be a great day in our Spiritual lives when we quit thinking that God has to give us all of the answers ahead of time." Our task becomes obedience.

3. The opportunity was unusual. We sure realize that from this story. Would you have argued with God about this direction? Would you have thought that there must be a mistake?

Would you have been so rebellious that the time would have been wasted? Remember the O.T. Story of Jacob. He had run from Esau and was going back to face him. He spent one night along the way "wrestling with God." It was hard and it left him wounded. But it was his GREATEST BLESSING.

Illustrate: Tom Carleton was a brilliant student. He graduated college at the head of his class, married his high school sweetheart, finished his PhD. And became a professor at the University of Idaho. He did well there, gaining respect and also tenure in the process.

But there was a tug on his life that he could not ignore. He and his family became missionaries in East Asia, where he became known as a modern-day Joshua. He personally explored, mapped out, and recorded the gospel needs of 80 cities with over one million people in each. Was this brilliant man's life a waste of resources? Eternity will tell us a different story as the gospel was spread because of his willingness to listen to the Spirit of God.

THERE IS ONE FINAL OBSERVATION TO MAKE!

III. QUICKLY OBEY THE SPIRIT! (Acts 8:

Phillip ran to the chariot. Was the chariot going by quickly? Would the moment pass without anyone to heed the call?

1. The time was right when Phillip and the Ethiopian got together. He was reading but he could not understand. Phillip was ready for the opportunity presented to him. Could he have said, "that man is reading something and I do not want to disturb him?" Could he have thought about racial differences. That man is a black man and I am a white man! Could he have been held back because of economic or social status? He is rich and I have little, so he would not listen to me. The time was right and Phillip **CHOSE TO OBEY THE SPIRIT!**

2. The time was short when Phillip joined the chariot. That chariot was going by in a hurry. Do it now Phillip! It must also be mentioned that Phillip did not take a lot of time talking about other things. He did not want to know the football scores. He was not concerned about the politics of the day. He did not talk about health or weather or anything else. **THIS WAS AN ETERNAL ENCOUNTER FROM A MAN OBEDIENT TO THE SPIRIT AND A MAN WHO NEEDED TO KNOW JESUS.**

ILLUSTRATION: Motivational speaker Zig Ziglar created a friendship with an older African lady by the name of Willa Dorsey. She had grown up in a very rough lifestyle, with much poverty and abuse. But she loved to sing. One of her songs was entitled "Peace in my soul." He asked her at one of their meetings why that song was so good. Her reply stayed with him the rest of his ministry. She said this: **"IF YOU ARE GOING TO BE CONVINCING BROTHER, YOU GOTTA FIRST BE CONVINCED."**

Conclusion: Will you breakthrough this morning to a fresh walk in the power of the Holy Spirit?

First, the conviction of the spirit brings us to salvation. You may need to repent and trust Jesus this very morning.

Beyond that, all of us as believers should recognize the Holy Spirit in our lives. It should be our ever-growing desire to listen to the Spirit and then obey what he says and where he leads us.