

Amazing Adventures of Philip (the Spirit-filled Servant): ACTS 8:26-40

Supernatural Guidance

Philip demonstrated unquestioning obedience to God's directions/instructions.

First guidance: Angel of the Lord said, *"Rise and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." This is a desert place.*

"This is a desert place" can also mean "This is a deserted place." Philip is told by an angel to go to a road in the middle of nowhere! Philip didn't have complete directions. I would ask "Why?" I'm a "Why?" person. Can you obey when you don't know where or why you are going? (But if an angel appeared to me and told me I would probably go without asking "Why?")

Second guidance: Holy Spirit said, *And the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over and join this chariot."*

This second direction came from the internal voice of the Holy Spirit when Philip saw the chariot. (It was probably not an external audible voice of the Spirit.) When Philip walked beside the chariot and heard a man reading the Bible, THEN he knew why he was there. It is no mere coincidence that the Ethiopian was reading that scripture right when Philip walked up to the chariot! Learning to discern the voice of the Holy Spirit from your own thoughts is necessary to walking in the Spirit.

Centrality of Scripture

Philip asked the appropriate question, "Do you understand what you are reading?" This Ethiopian eunuch who believed in the God of Israel was reading Isaiah 53:7-8. He didn't know Jesus. Philip told the Ethiopian that Isaiah 53 is about the suffering and death of the Messiah. It's an amazing prophecy that was written 750 years before Jesus fulfilled it. Philip told him the good news about JESUS. When you have an opportunity to witness to someone try to keep the focus on Jesus. If the person is an atheist then you probably must start with the existence of God. Try to avoid controversial social issues.

Belief & Baptism

The Ethiopian got baptized right after he believed. If you believe, then what are you waiting for? Even after you get baptized you will have questions and

doubts. You will still struggle with some issues, but the word of God and Holy Spirit will keep you in the truth.

Supernatural Transportation

The HS “snatched” or “carried away” Philip.

The OT has a story about being “caught up” by the Spirit of the LORD and deposited somewhere else - Elijah (2 Kings 2:15-18).

GR αρπαζω. It also means “caught up” (into heaven). The same word is used for the RAPTURE. 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17: *For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. ¹⁷ Then we who are alive, who are left, will be **caught up** together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord.*

It’s a supernatural form of transportation!

The Holy Spirit brought the Philip and the Ethiopian together. This is how the HS works. You have the answer and the Holy Spirit leads you to someone with a question.

*Show the video of Ravi and the Maharishi brought together by HS-inspired dreams. Dreams inspired by the HS brought Ravi and the Maharishi together, but the Maharishi knows he needs something more - he requests a Bible. He knows he must read God’s history in the Bible to know more about Christ.

Every Christian can live a supernatural faith, but he/she must be filled with the HS. Philip was filled with the HS (Acts 6:5; 8:4-8). You can live a supernatural faith when you are filled with the Holy Spirit. You must learn how to walk (listen and obey) in the Spirit.

When you obey God’s directions amazing things happen. People seeking truth about God find it and believe. It’s just like giving directions to a person who is lost. Someone walks up to you and asks “How do I get to...” and you know how to get there and give directions.

God wants to use you. Maybe God doesn’t always need to use us. Jesus appeared to Saul, but God used Ananias to help Saul believe in Christ (Acts 9). Jesus

appears to Muslims in dreams, but then God uses Christians to tell them who Jesus is.

God the Father prefers to do His work person to person. That's why He sent His Son. The Son showed us the Father.

Application:

Philip didn't have complete directions. I would ask "Why?"

Can you obey when you don't see the whole picture?

Can you trust when you don't know how it will turn out?

Can you follow when you don't know what the outcome will be?

If you're a follower of Jesus then your goal is to respond with unquestioning obedience. The first disciples of Jesus obeyed Jesus' call to follow Him. They didn't know what the outcome would be. They couldn't see the whole picture. They didn't know where they would be or what they would do tomorrow. They just knew Jesus claimed to be the Messiah. They saw He had God's power to perform miracles - heal sick people, free people from demons, multiply fish and bread, and turn water into wine.

Watch *The Chosen* and download the app.