

**Led by the Spirit**  
**Pastor Wally Contreras**  
**September 6, 2020**

**26** Now an angel of the Lord said to Philip, “Rise and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.” This is a desert place. **27** And he rose and went. And there was an Ethiopian, a eunuch, a court official of Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, who was in charge of all her treasure. He had come to Jerusalem to worship **28** and was returning, seated in his chariot, and he was reading the prophet Isaiah. **29** And the Spirit said to Philip, “Go over and join this chariot.” **30** So Philip ran to him and heard him reading Isaiah the prophet and asked, “Do you understand what you are reading?” **31** And he said, “How can I, unless someone guides me?” And he invited Philip to come up and sit with him. **32** Now the passage of the Scripture that he was reading was this:

“Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter and like a lamb before its shearer is silent, so he opens not his mouth. **33** In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth.”

**34** And the eunuch said to Philip, “About whom, I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?” **35** Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning with this Scripture he told him the good news about Jesus. **36** And as they were going along the road they came to some water, and the eunuch said, “See, here is water! What prevents me from being baptized?” **38** And he commanded the chariot to stop, and they both went down into the water, Philip and the eunuch, and he baptized him. **39** And when they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord carried Philip away, and the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. **40** But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he passed through he preached the gospel to all the towns until he came to Caesarea. (Acts 8:26:40)

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Pastor Wally listed Philip’s “rise” in Christian service”:

- 1<sup>st</sup> chosen as a deacon (one of the original 7)
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> served the Hellenistic widows (loved by scores of sweet old ladies)
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> lead a great revival in Samaria (Philip the great evangelist)
- THEN... “the middle of nowhere” (V26)!!!

How willing would I be to leave a great success for essentially nothing?

Continuing with the “from something to nothing thought” Hebrews 11:8 states “By faith Abraham, when called to go to a place he would later receive as his inheritance, obeyed and went, even though he did not know where he was going.” Am I willing to obey God without step by step instructions? How much proof do I need to believe it is from God?

Philip obeys and heads for the desert. He sees a very odd sight: a wealthy black man reading aloud from a scroll while riding in a chariot. The Spirit tells Philip to go and talk to this man. (V27-28) How likely would I be to engage this man in conversation? What is my typical response when things are out of the ordinary?

Pastor Wally commented on how Philip was empowered by the Spirit. He was able to catch up with the chariot and engage in conversation. In 1 Kings 18:44-46 we read a similar description. Elijah “empowered by the Lord” outran King Ahab’s chariot to Jezreel. Based on these accounts what do we learn/understand about the Holy Spirit?

This is the same Spirit Paul wrote about in Galatians 5:22-23. Is my flesh or the Holy Spirit controlling my... (mark F for flesh or HS for Holy Spirit)

___ love	___ joy	___ peace
___ patience	___ kindness	___ goodness
___ faithfulness	___ gentleness	___ self-control

The Ethiopian eunuch was reading from Isaiah 53:7-8 “..like a sheep...His life was taken...” Beginning with this scripture Philip told him the good news about Jesus. If I were telling the good news about Jesus what would I share?

John 16:13 Encourages us.. “The Spirit will guide you to all truth.”  
Pastor Wally said if we are obedient God will guide us and He will guide the person hearing. Have I asked God for a divine appointment in someone’s life?

Am I obedient to the leadership of the Holy Spirit or do I have to be in control of what happens in my life?

How can these promises better prepare me for a future divine appointment?  
Matthew 28:18-20 “Go! Make disciples of ALL n\_\_\_\_\_! I will be with you a\_\_\_\_\_!”  
Luke 12:11-12 “Don’t w\_\_\_\_\_! The Holy Spirit will t\_\_\_\_\_ you what to s\_\_\_\_\_!”  
Acts 1:8 “You will receive p\_\_\_\_\_ when Holy Spirit comes... you will be My w\_\_\_\_\_!”

Pastor Wally started we are to look like the church in Revelation “from every race, tribe, nation, and language”. We are to keep going on REGARDLESS.... Am I doing that?  
What limits me to keep going?

Exhortations:  
How will I live out the message?

1. Following Jesus means obeying one step at a time. Galatians 5:25  
“If we don’t we will be fearful and end up sinful.”

1      2      3      4      5      6      7      8      9      10  
Strongly Disagree      Strongly Agree

2. God’s word must always be done in the wider context of the arc of God’s redemptive work. Luke 24:27  
“We can’t work our own *agenda* into the Bible.”

1      2      3      4      5      6      7      8      9      10  
Strongly Disagree      Strongly Agree

3. Our mission is to gospelize (gossip) about Jesus while reflecting the fact that we are new community with a new identity in in Christ.  
1 Corinthians 12:12-13  
“Our 1<sup>st</sup> allegiance is to Christ. All *identities* must die to the church.”

1      2      3      4      5      6      7      8      9      10  
Strongly Disagree      Strongly Agree