



# Philip – A Wonderful Servant and Soul-winner

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## Who is your role model?

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- Athlete?
- Successful person?
- Movie star?
- Musician?
- Family member?
- Bible character?



## Philip the Evangelist is a great role model: 4 insights we can learn from His example

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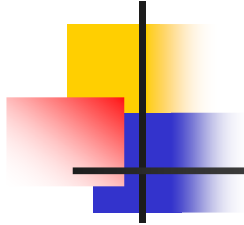
- 1) God grants greater opportunities for those who faithfully serve Him in the local Body of Christ (Acts 6: 1-7; Mark 10: 42-45)
- 2) God grants opportunities for greater witness when we're willing to go out of our comfort zone (Acts 8: 1-13; Acts 1:8; 2 Tim. 4:2)
- 3) God uses persons who are responsive to the Holy Spirit's leading (Acts 8: 26-40; John 14:26; Acts 1:8)
- 4) God honors a godly parent who passes on the legacy of faith to his children (Acts 21: 8-9; Deut. 6: 6-9; Eph. 6:4)



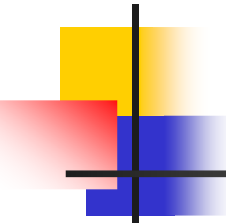
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- a) Philip served faithfully as a “deacon” to assist the apostles with administrative tasks (Acts 6: 1-4). He helped to resolve an administrative problem in the church in Jerusalem
- b) Philip met the spiritual qualifications to be among the 7 selected (Acts 6:3): be of good reputation, full of the Spirit, and full of wisdom



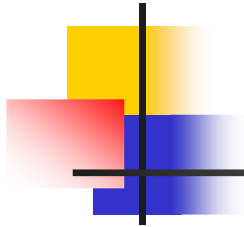
- Like Philip, let us serve faithfully and consistently where we are at. In time, God will give us greater opportunities to serve Him.
- Let us cooperate with the Spirit to develop the right character. God uses those who are spiritually qualified to do great things for Him.



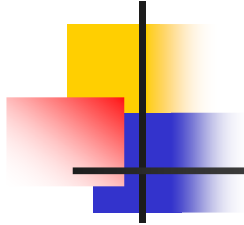
## 2) God grants opportunities for greater witness when we're willing to go out of our comfort zone

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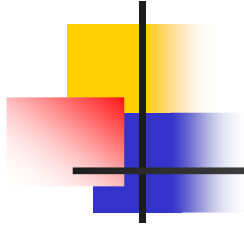
- The Holy Spirit used Philip to fulfill Acts 1:8 – Christ commissions us to be His witnesses starting from Jerusalem, Judea, then Samaria, and then to the ends of the earth
- a) God sent Philip to preach the good news and minister to the Samaritans (Acts 8: 4-7). He preached the gospel and performed great signs and wonders (cf. Matt. 4: 23). He continued Christ's ministry to the Samaritans.



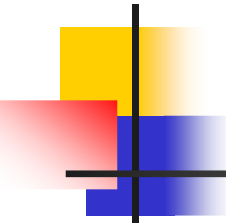
- One of the main themes of the book of Acts is Christ continuing His ministry through His Spirit-empowered disciples.
- “When the church won its greatest victories in the early days of the Roman Empire, it did so not by teachers or preachers or apostles, but by informal missionaries” (A. Harnack)



- b) God used Philip to convert the Ethiopian eunuch, an important royal official (Acts 8: 26-40)
- The Spirit used Philip to break down barriers so that the gospel would impact people whom Jewish society looked down upon (e.g. Samaritans, eunuchs). Philip was the first missionary and evangelist to non-Jewish peoples after Christ's Great Commission.



- Are we willing to go beyond our comfort zone, our cliques, and reach out to people who are different than us?
- Are we willing to reach out to the neighbor across the street, our classmates, our co-workers, international students, or persons from other ethnic / cultural backgrounds?



### 3) God uses persons who are responsive to the Spirit's leading (Acts 8: 26-40; John 14:26; Acts 1:8 ESV)

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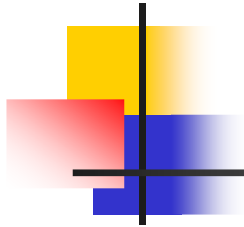
- There are 3 instances in the book of Acts where the Holy Spirit speaks:
  - a) Acts 8: 29 The Spirit tells Philip, 'Go over and join this chariot' (the Ethiopian's chariot)
  - b) Acts 10: 19-20 The Spirit tells Peter, "Behold, 3 men are looking for you. Rise and go down and accompany them without hesitation for I have sent them."
  - c) Acts 13:2 While the believers in Antioch were worshipping and fasting, the Spirit says, "Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I called them."



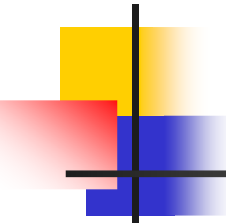
## Acts 8:29 'Go up and join this chariot'

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- The H.S. is very timely in His prompting. He will tell us to talk to people at the right time about Christ or spiritual matters.
- Philip had to *run* up to the chariot at that moment. The Ethiopian was reading Isaiah 53: 7-8 at that moment. It was the perfect moment to talk to him about Christ. Philip opened the conversation with a question.
- My experience



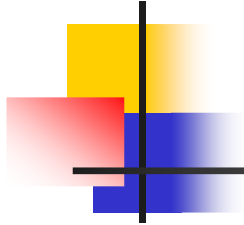
- The Holy Spirit may prompt us to pray specifically for a person when they need it the most.
- The Holy Spirit may direct us to speak a word of knowledge to a person (John 4:17 – Jesus spoke a word of knowledge to the Samaritan woman).
- The Spirit may guide us to pray for a person who needs healing or encouragement



Acts 10: 19-20 “ Simon, three men are looking for you. So get up and go downstairs. Do not hesitate to go with them, for I have sent them.”

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- Sometimes when you meet certain people, the H.S. will give you a very strong sense that He is bringing these people into your life and you will be used by God to minister to them.
- Ask God to empower and use you to minister to them
- My students in Biola / my wife's piano students
- Who is God bringing into your life for you to minister to?



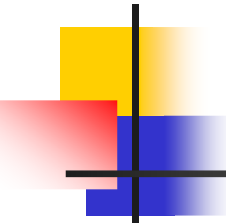
- Who is God bringing into your life that He wants you to minister to and/or equip for ministry?
- Jesus ministered to and equipped the 12 disciples. They ministered to and equipped others who then were able to train others; multiplication effect



## Acts 13:2 "Set apart for Me Barnabas and Saul"

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- God may be calling some of you to serve Him in ministry
- It could be at your workplace or school
- It could be your neighbor
- It could be your relatives
- It could be the people at the stores you often go to
- Some of you may be called to be a pastor, evangelist, or missionary



3) Like Philip, pass on your legacy of faith to your children (Acts 21: 8-9; Deut. 6: 6-9; Eph. 6:4)

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- Philip was a godly father who passed on his faith in Christ to his 4 daughters. Each one of them became a prophetess (Acts 21:8-9).
- Are you encouraging your children (either physical or spiritual) to be faithful servants of Christ?
- We need to set a good example for the next generation and pray fervently for them that they would become faithful disciples of Christ



## The next generation of young people will be used mightily by the Lord

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- Joel 2: 28-29 – In the last days, God will pour out His Spirit on all people: the sons and daughters will prophesy, old men will dream dreams, young men will see visions.
- God will raise up a new generation of mighty prophets, evangelists, missionaries, and leaders.
- The biggest need right now is how to disciple these young people to be faithful servants



It is no wonder that Satan tries to destroy those persons who will be future prophets and leaders

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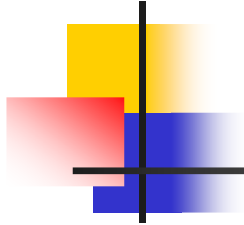
- Birth of Moses – Pharaoh tried to kill him by killing off the male children
- Birth of Christ – Herod Agrippa tried to kill all the males 2 years and younger
- The birth of future prophets and leaders – Satan is using our society to kill off thousands of unborn children



## Are we willing to be a Philip?

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- Are we willing to faithfully serve God right where we're at? God will grant us greater opportunities in time.
- Are we willing to go out of our comfort zone and reach people different from us? God will use us mightily as He did Philip.
- Are we willing to be responsive to the Spirit's leading? God will bring to us the people He wants us to minister to.



- Are we willing to be godly parents (natural or spiritual) who will set a good example and pass on the legacy of faith onto the next generation?
- God will raise up a new generation of powerful leaders, prophets, and evangelists in the Body of Christ. Are you willing to be used by God to encourage & equip them?