

## ***Evangelism Part 11***

***“<sup>5</sup> Then Philip went down to the city of Samaria, and preached Christ unto them.<sup>6</sup> And the people with one accord gave heed unto those things which Philip spake, hearing and seeing the miracles which he did.<sup>7</sup> For unclean spirits, crying with loud voice, came out of many that were possessed with them: and many taken with palsies, and that were lame, were healed.<sup>8</sup> And there was great joy in that city. ”*** (Acts 8:5-8 KJV)

***<sup>5</sup> Then Philip went down to the city of Samaria, and preached Christ unto them.***<sup>6</sup> Philip was one of the seven, and he responded to the persecution that had taken place in Jerusalem against the church by moving forward to preach the gospel in the city of Samaria.

It mentioned he went down, means he moved down from his comfort zone and was willing to go forward accepting suffering to communicate the gospel to people who are in need of God’s word and God’s will in their life.

He moved by faith, in obedience to God’s command to go to preach the gospel and to make disciples. He went down to Samaria trusting God that HE will go with him and do miracles in his mission trip as he will be preaching Christ to them.

***<sup>6</sup> And the people with one accord gave heed unto those things which Philip spake, hearing and seeing the miracles which he did.*** As Philipp moved, God aided him in his mission and He did many miracles through Philipp’s life. The people saw the miracles of God and got faith in God. As they witnessed the miracles of God they got united with one accord.

The people when they are united in one accord they will be determined and focus in their decision to do certain things as you read in ***Joshua 9:2*** and in ***Acts 7: 57; 12:20; 18:12; 19:29***. And how much more when God is behind their unity to do and achieve the very will of God as you read in ***Acts 1:14; 2:1; 2:46; 4:24; 5:12; 15:25***. Here God gave the people of Samaria one heart and mind to believe in order to glorify God, ***“That ye may with one mind and one mouth glorify God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.”*** (Romans 15:6 KJV) As the Church of God move forward led by the Holy Spirit the Lord shall lead His church to reach new people whom God had prepared their heart to receive His Word and His servants who carry the message to them. As God lead then He will provide. Here God allowed persecution that made the church scattered and He provided for the church their needs by enabling them to spread His Word wherever they went (Acts 8:4). The need of the Church of God today will be met when His Word is preached, new areas and cities reached out and new souls harvested.

***With one accord gave heed unto those things;*** They gave heed to the message that was spoken to them. To give heed, is to take seriously the warning message of God, that His Word declare and His prophets spoke as in ***Luke 21:34; Acts 20:28; Hebrews 2:1*** and ***2Peter 1:19***. To take heed is to take certain action in response to the instruction that is given as in ***Luke 17:3***. To take heed is not to get enticed to go along evil influences of false teachers and the false teaching as in ***Matthew 16:6*** and ***1Timothy 4:1***.

The people of Samaria ***with one accord gave heed unto those things which Philip spake, hearing and seeing the miracles which he did.*** The people see things and heard things. There were people witnessed the miracles that God did through Philipp, and there were people

believed and got saved as they heard what God did of miracles through His servant Philipp. What can be understood here that when the Word of God preached miracles of various kinds would happen; and as the Word of God be heard, people repents, sins forgiven, sicknesses healed and people saved.

***<sup>7</sup> For unclean spirits, crying with loud voice, came out of many that were possessed with them: and many taken with palsies, and that were lame, were healed.*** Preaching the message of God might be also accompanied by ministering to the sick people, laying hand on them, and driving out demons. The unclean spirits are demons and they will cause various sicknesses and various manifestations. Many kinds of body pain, paralysis and palsies are caused by them. They would always try to cause disturbance and noise when they are moving out from those who are afflicted by them. Probably to impart fear to those who are used by God to expel them from the afflicted victims. They do that because they are not willing to leave their comfort place –the body of those who had afflicted them with sicknesses. It is a torment to them to move out from the bodies that they were occupying.

Philipp in his ministry in Samaria drove out demons the same as what Jesus did from the man who was possessed in the synagogue of Capernaum, ***“<sup>23</sup> And there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit; and he cried out, <sup>24</sup> Saying, Let us alone; what have we to do with thee, thou Jesus of Nazareth? art thou come to destroy us? I know thee who thou art, the Holy One of God.<sup>25</sup> And Jesus rebuked him, saying, Hold thy peace, and come out of him.<sup>26</sup> And when the unclean spirit had torn him, and cried with a loud voice, he came out of him.”*** (Mark 1:23-26 KJV)

Philipp did similar to what Jesus did in Capernaum, ***“<sup>32</sup> And at even, when the sun did set, they brought unto him all that were diseased, and them that were possessed with devils.<sup>33</sup> And all the city was gathered together at the door.<sup>34</sup> And he healed many that were sick of divers diseases, and cast out many devils; and suffered not the devils to speak, because they knew him.”*** (Mark 1:32-34 KJV)

The promise of Jesus to His disciples is that the gates of hell will not be able to overcome them, ***“<sup>18</sup> And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.”*** (Matthew 16:18 KJV) Those who are possessed by unclean spirits are hell advancing and occupying territories. There as the church move forward and the disciples preached the good news, hell will be combated and the gates of hell will be directly controlled and subdued by the church of God. Therefore the persecution that was range out against the church in Jerusalem was subdued and controlled when the gospel was preached by the disciples wherever they went; ***“<sup>4</sup> Therefore they that were scattered abroad went every where preaching the word.”*** (Acts 8:4 KJV)

God promised Abraham that his seed shall possess the gate of his enemies, ***“<sup>17</sup> That in blessing I will bless thee, and in multiplying I will multiply thy seed as the stars of the heaven, and as the sand which is upon the sea shore; and thy seed shall possess the gate of his enemies;”*** (Genesis 22:17 KJV)

The family of Rebekah blessed her when they sent her to marry Isaac with these blessings: ***“<sup>60</sup> And they blessed Rebekah, and said unto her, Thou art our sister, be thou the mother of***

*thousands of millions, and let thy seed possess the gate of those which hate them. (Genesis 24:60 KJV)*

The gate of the enemy of Jesus and ours is the Satan and demons with him, the bruiser of His and our heads, the persecutor of the church, and the causers of many and various sicknesses, <sup>15</sup> *“And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.” (Genesis 3:15 KJV)* As God promised, his head will be bruised and his gates will be taken and hell will not overcome, as the word of God preached, people believed, sins forgiven, demons driven out, sick people got delivered, saved and healed. What the church of God doing today, the seed of Abraham, the disciple of Jesus in evangelizing and spreading the Word of God and subduing the gates of hell is a just a glimpse of the final victory of Jesus over devil and his final defeat when he will be thrown in the lake of fire and brimstone, <sup>7</sup> *“And when the thousand years are expired, Satan shall be loosed out of his prison,<sup>8</sup> And shall go out to deceive the nations which are in the four quarters of the earth, Gog, and Magog, to gather them together to battle: the number of whom is as the sand of the sea.<sup>9</sup> And they went up on the breadth of the earth, and compassed the camp of the saints about, and the beloved city: and fire came down from God out of heaven, and devoured them.<sup>10</sup> And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night forever and ever.” (Revelation 20:7-10 KJV)*

<sup>8</sup> *And there was great joy in that city.* So every time we evangelize and every soul is been reached out and won, heaven rejoice; we are experiencing the joy of the victory, and stepping forward toward the final victory over Satan. <sup>7</sup> *“I say unto you, that likewise joy shall be in heaven over one sinner that repenteth, more than over ninety and nine just persons, which need no repentance.<sup>10</sup> Likewise, I say unto you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner that repenteth.” (Luke 15:7, 10 KJV)* Great joy was the manifestation of that victory that the persecuted and scattered church had achieved in subduing the gates of hell; bruising the head of the serpent, and winning the city of Samaria for God. Great Joy contributed by the joy of Salvation, the joy of the forgiveness of sins, the joy of justification and become children of God, the joy of healing, the joy of deliverance from bondages and pain and limitations, the joy of knowing the truth, the joy of living in holiness and not in sin, the joy of becoming part of God’s church and god’s household and be within a holy community, the joy of victory over death, the joy of knowing the plan of God, the joy of knowing that we are having a place in heaven, and the joy of knowing that Jesus will come and take us with Him to heaven. The gospel that Philipp preached explained all that to them therefore that is why it is said, <sup>8</sup> *And there was great joy in that city.*

Samaria was built by Omri the father of Ahab, *“And he bought the hill Samaria of Shemer for two talents of silver, and built on the hill, and called the name of the city which he built, after the name of Shemer, owner of the hill, Samaria.” (1Kings 16:24 KJV)* From the day of the inception of the city of Samaria, it was a place of idol worship <sup>25</sup> *“But Omri wrought evil in the eyes of the LORD, and did worse than all that were before him.<sup>26</sup> For he walked in all the way of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, and in his sin wherewith he made Israel to sin, to provoke the LORD God of Israel to anger with their vanities.<sup>27</sup> Now the rest of the acts of Omri which he did, and his might that he shewed, are they not written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Israel?<sup>28</sup> So Omri slept with his fathers, and was buried in Samaria: and Ahab his son reigned in his stead.<sup>29</sup> And in the thirty and eighth year of Asa*

*king of Judah began Ahab the son of Omri to reign over Israel: and Ahab the son of Omri reigned over Israel in Samaria twenty and two years.<sup>30</sup> And Ahab the son of Omri did evil in the sight of the LORD above all that were before him.<sup>31</sup> And it came to pass, as if it had been a light thing for him to walk in the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, that he took to wife Jezebel the daughter of Ethbaal king of the Zidonians, and went and served Baal, and worshipped him.<sup>32</sup> And he reared up an altar for Baal in the house of Baal, which he had built in Samaria.<sup>33</sup> And Ahab made a grove; and Ahab did more to provoke the LORD God of Israel to anger than all the kings of Israel that were before him.” (1Kings 16:25-33 KJV)* Samaria was the capital of the divided ten tribes. Baal worship was introduced by Ahab in Samaria after his marriage with Jezebel. The Great prophets Elijah and Elisha ministered in Samaria, starting during the reign of King Ahab, the most wicked of its kings (*1 Kings 17:1 - 2 Kings 13:21*). Hosea, Amos and other prophets ministered in Samaria. Murder and corruption was in the city of Samaria. Naboth and his sons were killed in Samaria by Ahab to extort from him his vineyard (*1 Kings 21:1-21 KJV*). Samaria was the capital of the divided ten tribes till it was taken to captivity by the King of Assyria and their people was replaced by non Jewish people (*2Kings 17:6-41 KJV*) And the place of Samaria remain a source of trouble to Jerusalem during the reign of most of its kings, and even after it is destroyed by the King of Assyria, it kept its enmity against God’s people. King Hezekiah invited them to return back after they were destroyed by the king of Assyria but they mocked the message that was sent to them (*2 Chronicles 30:1-11 KJV*) King Josiah removed drastically all the their idolatrous altar (*2 Kings 23:15-20, 2 Chronicles 34:33 KJV*) Samaria was a source of trouble to the people of God during the time of rebuilding the temple (*Ezra 4:1-24 KJV*) and during the time of rebuilding the wall (*Nehemiah 4:1-2 KJV*).

Jesus passed through Samaria and healed the ten lepers (*Luke 17:11-19 KJV*) and he reached the Samaritan woman and the city of Sychar (*John 4:1-42 KJV*)

And after Jesus, and in respond to the persecution that took place against the church in Jerusalem, <sup>5</sup> *Then Philip went down to the city of Samaria, and preached Christ unto them,* and God did through him marvelous things; this reminding us what Jesus said to His disciples, <sup>12</sup> *“Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father.” (John 14:15 KJV)* It is also teaching us that great enemy of the past can be changed, tamed and transformed by the gospel of Christ. The great enemy of the past would be useful and beneficial through the gospel of Christ. Paul said to Philemon about Onesimus, <sup>15</sup> *“For perhaps he therefore departed for a season, that thou shouldest receive him for ever;<sup>16</sup> Not now as a servant, but above a servant, a brother beloved, specially to me, but how much more unto thee, both in the flesh, and in the Lord?” (Philemon 1:15-16 KJV)* Samaria departed from Jerusalem and the temple (the Old Testament church) due to sin but later on through the gospel of Jesus it became transformed and came back to the church not as enemy to destroy, but a beloved brother to build the church of God. Truly it become one with the rest of churches, *“Then had the churches rest throughout all Judaea and Galilee and Samaria, and were edified; and walking in the fear of the Lord, and in the comfort of the Holy Ghost, were multiplied.” (Acts 9:31 KJV)*

*My dear and beloved:* Be open to the leading of the Holy Spirit. The Lord shall lead you to go down to help people, families, villages and cities who live in darkness. They will be no more enemies to you, but dear brothers in Christ and will help you in your mission to reach out the

lost. Commit yourself to the calling of God in your life to be a blessing to others in bringing them to Christ as you agree to pray.

**My Prayer:** *Father God I come before you in the name of Jesus, who died on the cross for my sins and rose from the death to give me eternal life. Lord I thank you for your word that makes your callings clear to me. Your Word had made me understand more deep things from your word and had helped me understand life and evangelism in a better way. Lord I commit myself to go out with you to the field that you are directing me, to reach the lost, to direct them to know you. Lord gives me the same mind and love of yours to reach the lost and bring your salvation to them. Lord sustains me with a good health and the needed strength to do this ministry. This is my prayer in Jesus name, Amen.*

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**Issue 29**

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