

*“<sup>26</sup> And the angel of the Lord spake unto Philip, saying, Arise, and go toward the south unto the way that goeth down from Jerusalem unto Gaza, which is desert. <sup>27</sup> And he arose and went: and, behold, a man of Ethiopia, an eunuch of great authority under Candace queen of the Ethiopians, who had the charge of all her treasure, and had come to Jerusalem for to worship, <sup>28</sup> Was returning, and sitting in his chariot read Esaias the prophet. <sup>29</sup> Then the Spirit said unto Philip, Go near, and join thyself to this chariot. <sup>30</sup> And Philip ran thither to him, and heard him read the prophet Esaias, and said, Understandest thou what thou readest? <sup>31</sup> And he said, How can I, except some man should guide me? And he desired Philip that he would come up and sit with him. <sup>32</sup> The place of the scripture which he read was this, He was led as a sheep to the slaughter; and like a lamb dumb before his shearer, so opened he not his mouth: <sup>33</sup> In his humiliation his judgment was taken away: and who shall declare his generation? for his life is taken from the earth. <sup>34</sup> And the eunuch answered Philip, and said, I pray thee, of whom speaketh the prophet this? of himself, or of some other man? <sup>35</sup> Then Philip opened his mouth, and began at the same scripture, and preached unto him Jesus. <sup>36</sup> And as they went on their way, they came unto a certain water: and the eunuch said, See, here is water; what doth hinder me to be baptized? <sup>37</sup> And Philip said, If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest. And he answered and said, I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God. <sup>38</sup> And he commanded the chariot to stand still: and they went down both into the water, both Philip and the eunuch; and he baptized him. <sup>39</sup> And when they were come up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord caught away Philip, that the eunuch saw him no more: and he went on his way rejoicing. <sup>40</sup> But Philip was found at Azotus: and passing through he preached in all the cities, till he came to Caesarea.” (Acts 8:26-40 KJV)*

*<sup>26</sup> And the angel of the Lord spake unto Philip, saying, Arise, and go toward the south unto the way that goeth down from Jerusalem unto Gaza, which is desert.* Those who had set their hearts to obey God and to do His will, the Lord will reach them and will be easily direct them to the direction that God wants them to go. Philip from the scattering of the persecution reached out the city of Samaria and the city was subdued for Christ. Philip was a fisher of men and will not be satisfied with that. He would do more things for God. Being filled with the Holy Spirit is to be taken by the Holy Spirit to do and achieve the plan of God to mankind and to finish His work.

*Philip* meaning is lover of horses. Horses are fast running animal and they are not afraid to move forward and attack during the battle. Philip was moving fast and speedily. Like the fast horse? Nay. But more than that to meet the call of God in order to achieve his ordained assignment. He was in full submission to the Holy Spirit and was taken and moving from place to other by the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit caught Philip and brought him to other places, <sup>39</sup> *And when they were come up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord caught away Philip, that the eunuch saw him no more: and he went on his way rejoicing.* Philip was moving hastily by the Holy Spirit from city to city to preach the Word of God, <sup>40</sup> *But Philip was found at Azotus: and passing through he preached in all the cities, till he came to Caesarea.*

*And the angel of the Lord spake unto Philip,* Any missionary journey will start in our lives when God would speak His word to us. Here the Lord sent His angel to Philip to, *Arise, and go*

*toward the south unto the way that goeth down from Jerusalem unto Gaza, which is desert.* Philip received complete instruction about the direction that he need to go and move. God would always give you clear direction to where He wants you to move. Notice here, that the angel did not inform Philip whom he is going to meet and what he is going to do. God might not declare to you what you are going to do in details. But God would direct you step by step what you need to achieve; one step at a time. And when you obey the first instruction and do it, then you find yourself getting involved into the second step.

*<sup>27</sup> And he arose and went: and, behold, a man of Ethiopia, an eunuch of great authority under Candace queen of the Ethiopians, who had the charge of all her treasure, and had come to Jerusalem for to worship.* Philip at once he heard he obeyed. He obeyed immediately and that of value otherwise He will not be able to meet the man of Ethiopia. Delayed obedient not only delay us but made us unable to meet our assignments and do them.

*and, behold, a man of Ethiopia, an eunuch of great authority under Candace queen of the Ethiopians, who had the charge of all her treasure, and had come to Jerusalem for to worship.* What Philipp met was something not expected. The following was not an ordinary feature in the Ethiopian man and might be seem strange for Philip. When God called us to serve Him and reaching people with the Gospel of Jesus we might be astonished with the various kinds of people that God would bring in the mid of us.

- 1- People can be of different nationality and culture, or of different race and skin color. It would be easier to meet people of same back ground of us.
- 2- People can be of high position and high authority. It might be easier if God would send us to people that of low socio-economic and of low profile to deal with. This Ethiopian was of great authority and working under the Candace queen of Ethiopia. His job was in charge of all her treasure.
- 3- People can be rich people and it is more difficult to deal with rich people than the poor. This man was a rich man and was riding a chariot. Even rich people when God would send us to them, He would prepared them to receive our message and our instructions.
- 4- People who are *eunuch*, that are unable to reproduce and have children. *Deuteronomy 23:1*, says, *“He that is wounded in the stones, or hath his privy member cut off, shall not enter into the congregation of the LORD.”* We might be thinking that physical disability is exclusion from God and from His service. That is not correct because our service and ministry it depend on our willingness to give our life fully to the Work of the Holy Spirit. People who are in physical infirmities are not to be excluded from God’s church. The Promise of God in Isaiah 56:4-5 would be fulfilled in the life of that eunuch that Philip met, *“<sup>4</sup> For thus saith the LORD unto the eunuchs that keep my sabbaths, and choose the things that please me, and take hold of my covenant;<sup>5</sup> Even unto them will I give in mine house and within my walls a place and a name better than of sons and of daughters: I will give them an everlasting name, that shall not be cut off.” (Isaiah 56:4-5 KJV).* Jesus also gave teaching that eunuch can be eligible for the Kingdom of God as they are willing to serve God, *“<sup>12</sup> For there are some eunuchs, which were so born from their mother's womb: and there are some eunuchs, which were made eunuchs of men: and there be eunuchs, which have made themselves eunuchs for the kingdom of heaven's sake. He that is able to receive it, let him receive it.” (Matthew 19:12 KJV)*

- 5- People who are going to the churches. This eunuch that Philip met was in his journey back from Jerusalem. He went back from worship. <sup>28</sup> ***Was returning, and sitting in his chariot read Esaias the prophet.*** But he was not saved. Many they go to churches but they are not saved. When we meet such people as God is leading us to them, we should not be satisfied that they are going to church or doing a ministry; they might still not in faith, not yet even baptized, and not yet know the Word of God and the will of God.
- 6- People who are reading the bible. That eunuch was reading the bible <sup>28</sup> ***Was returning, and sitting in his chariot read Esaias the prophet.*** Philip did not assume that he knew what he was reading. But he took the opportunity and started to teach him the word of God.

<sup>29</sup> ***Then the Spirit said unto Philip, Go near, and join thyself to this chariot.*** Here Philip got the next instruction from the Holy Spirit to go near and to join the chariot of the eunuch. As we obey God diligently and more on time to where God is calling us to go, ***“Not slothful in business; fervent in spirit; serving the Lord;” (Romans 12:11 KJV)*** then we found ourselves meeting the right people, and there we will be hearing the further instruction of the Holy Spirit.

***Go near, and join thyself to this:*** God wants us to go near the people and join them in order for us to deliver the message of God to them and do the needful.

<sup>30</sup> ***And Philip ran thither to him, and heard him read the prophet Esaias, and said, Understandest thou what thou readest?*** Philip ran to the chariot, in obedience to the instruction of the Holy Spirit, ***“The soul of the sluggard desireth, and hath nothing: but the soul of the diligent shall be made fat.” (Proverbs 13:4 KJV)*** As he reached the eunuch he heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. Boldly and confidently Philip asked him, ***Understandest thou what thou readest?*** the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God, opened the way to the heart of that man who was a fruit ready for harvest to the Master.

<sup>31</sup> ***And he said, How can I, except some man should guide me? And he desired Philip that he would come up and sit with him.*** The man was humble and teachable and confessed as he said, ***How can I, except some man should guide me?*** He was looking for a help and guidance for his life. Although externally he was a rich and in high position but in actual life he was a humble person and willing to be guided into the whole will of God. He desired and invited Philip to come up and sit with him. Many who look like high in life, we think that they are non approachable, but let us trust and obey the Holy Spirit when He is sending us to them. <sup>45</sup> ***Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding.” (Proverbs 3:5 KJV)***

<sup>32</sup> ***The place of the scripture which he read was this, He was led as a sheep to the slaughter; and like a lamb dumb before his shearer, so opened he not his mouth: <sup>33</sup>In his humiliation his judgment was taken away: and who shall declare his generation? for his life is taken from the earth. <sup>34</sup>What he was reading was in consistent of Isaiah 53:7-8 <sup>47</sup>He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth: he is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so he openeth not his mouth. <sup>8</sup>He was taken from prison and from judgment: and who shall declare his generation? for he was cut off out of the land of the living: for the transgression of my people was he stricken.”*** That is the message of Salvation that God had sent to that eunuch man who feared him, and God sent

Philip to that man to explain to him the exact meaning of what he is reading, and to explain to him from that Scripture about Jesus. Truly Philip reached that man on just the right moment. Where he needs to know about Jesus, the Scripture was opened on that part of the prophet and Philip was just beside. Everything God had prepared for harvest. That is why we ought to move diligently when God calls us to meet the people at their salvation and conversion point.

<sup>34</sup> ***And the eunuch answered Philip, and said, I pray thee, of whom speaketh the prophet this? of himself, or of some other man?*** People even they read the Word of God they need the explanation of what they read in order for them to grasp what God is telling them. Evangelism means we need to explain to the people the word of God and its application in their lives. Revival will be initiated when the Word of God is expounded and explained well to the souls who are longing for God’s presence in their lives.

<sup>35</sup> ***Then Philip opened his mouth, and began at the same scripture, and preached unto him Jesus.*** Philip at once opened his mouth and explained to him the Scripture and He preached Jesus to him. He directed him to Jesus who died for our sins, ***“11 He shall see of the travail of his soul, and shall be satisfied: by his knowledge shall my righteous servant justify many; for he shall bear their iniquities.” (Isaiah 53:11 KJV)*** Jesus is God’s righteous servant in His death on the cross He justifies many by bearing their iniquities; ***by his knowledge shall my righteous servant justify many; for he shall bear their iniquities.***

<sup>36</sup> ***And as they went on their way, they came unto a certain water: and the eunuch said, See, here is water; what doth hinder me to be baptized?*** Philip explained to the eunuch the message of salvation adequately including the water Baptism that Jesus ordained for His disciples as in ***Matthew 28:19-20*** and ***Mark 16:15-16***. That is why the eunuch inquired of Philip if he can take be Baptized. God here even prepare adequate water for his baptism.

<sup>37</sup> ***And Philip said, If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest. And he answered and said, I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.*** Philip asserted to him the full commitment and believe on Christ is needed before taking baptism, ***If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest,*** and he the eunuch answered and said, ***I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.*** Notice that the eunuch not only verbally proclaimed and accepted Jesus. In addition his attitude and character convinced Philip that he is to be baptized. He was humble, teachable; he went to Jerusalem to worship God and to bring His gift to the Lord. Not only that, but he was reading the Scripture, and he asked Philip to join him and explained to him what he was reading. And when Philip preached to him Jesus he desired and requested Philip to be baptized.

<sup>38</sup> ***And he commanded the chariot to stand still: and they went down both into the water, both Philip and the eunuch; and he baptized him.*** Upon all these confirmation Philip Baptized him. The eunuch was so happy to get baptized for at once he stopped the chariot, Philip and he went down into the water and Philip baptized him. Went down into the water it denotes that the eunuch was baptized by immersion.

<sup>39</sup> ***And when they were come up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord caught away Philip, that the eunuch saw him no more: and he went on his way rejoicing.*** After immersion the eunuch come up out of the water. Baptism is to bury the old life and need to be done by full immersion of the body under the surface of the water.

**the Spirit of the Lord caught away Philip.** Philip after he finished his assignment, the Holy Spirit took him to do and achieve further work of God.

**that the eunuch saw him no more: and he went on his way rejoicing.** The eunuch was glad that he received Christ and burying his old life, now he is living a new life for the Lord. The eunuch was a rich man, with authority and in high position but that was not the reason for him to rejoice. Jesus said to His disciples <sup>20</sup> **Notwithstanding in this rejoice not, that the spirits are subject unto you; but rather rejoice, because your names are written in heaven.**” (Luke 10:20 KJV) Paul said, <sup>7</sup> **But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ.** <sup>8</sup> **Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ,** <sup>9</sup> **And be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith:** <sup>10</sup> **That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death;** <sup>11</sup> **If by any means I might attain unto the resurrection of the dead.**” (Philippians 3:7-11 KJV)

<sup>40</sup> **But Philip was found at Azotes: and passing through he preached in all the cities, till he came to Caesarea.** Philip continued to be used by the Holy Spirit to preach at Azotus and he passed through in all cities. That mean he was in journey to reach cities which are in series and preach to people in all of them. He was doing his assignment in a perfect way. We ought to evangelize in an organized way to reach all people in all the places that God had placed us in and allowed us to reach.

**till he came to Caesarea:** That was Philip place of living where his home was. Account of the family and the home of Philip found in Acts 21:8-10 <sup>8</sup> **And the next day we that were of Paul's company departed, and came unto Caesarea: and we entered into the house of Philip the evangelist, which was one of the seven; and abode with him.** <sup>9</sup> **And the same man had four daughters, virgins, which did prophesy.** <sup>10</sup> **And as we tarried there many days, there came down from Judaea a certain prophet, named Agabus.**” The family of Philip was in order. His four daughters were virgins. Living in holiness, disciplined by their father, and not having affair with men. Family in order is a good potential to be a testimony and a back up for the head of the family to serve God. As we put our family in order we got the people at home and we have the opportunity to go out and preach the gospel. In Luke 15:3-17 the shepherd left the 99 sheep in the open field and he went after the lost one. He was to do that because they were in order. When we put our homes in order we can go and reach the lost as Philip did. His four daughters were having the gifts of prophecy and were prophecy. Philip in his ministry was under the apostle of Jerusalem and he was receiving follow up and spiritual support in visiting his ministry in the city of Samaria. His house was open to the work of God and he welcomes the brethren that travelling in the leading of the Holy Spirit.

**My dear and beloved:** Meditate on the message and be inspired by the life of Philip in serving the Lord and his obedient to the leading of the Holy Spirit. Learn from the family of Philip and raise up your children in the fear of Lord, that they may help you in serving the Lord, and your house will be a home and a family for saints who are serving the Lord. Commit yourself to the calling of God and to the spiritual principles that you read in this message 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 demonstrates to me your will, how the way that you want me to obey you. Lord I commit my life under the ministry of the Holy Spirit to go and move and reach places that you wants me to go and reach. Lord sustains me and provides all my needs, and gives me good health to go on in serving you. This is all what I ask and pray in Jesus name, Amen.

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