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man  
should  
teachest me**

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**Acts 8:27 – 9:12**

~ Philip was instructed by God to leave Samaria where the Holy Spirit was moving and working on myriad new Christian converts at the time in which we are studying, and to remove himself to the desert sands of Gaza in our last report from our Spiritual Safari expedition through the entire Word of God. The Lord told Philip to go south and, when Philip went south, he found only one person there. I have always wondered if Philip thought he may have misunderstood God's leading. I mean, where were all the people? Surely God didn't make Philip travel hundreds of miles just to teach this one man....

**VIII**

***27 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,***

***28 Was returning, and sitting in his chariot read Esaias the prophet.***

***29 Then the Spirit said unto Philip, Go near, and join thyself to this chariot.***

~ The next few chapters in the book of Acts record the accounts of three remarkable conversions of sinners to the Lord Jesus Christ. Here, we have the Ethiopian Eunuch, who was a son of Ham; chapter nine will bring the famous conversion of Saul of Tarsus, a son of Shem; and chapter ten brings the conversion of Cornelius, a son of Japheth – and Cornelius was a Roman Centurion. In each conversion, you will notice three factors are brought into focus that are mandatory in order for any conversion to occur.

First, the Holy Spirit must lead the situation, process and individuals completely. We first learned how the Spirit took Philip to Samaria, where

God moved mightily on many people. Then, the Spirit of God led Philip to Gaza, where we are now in our study. Here, the Spirit of God is moving in the life of an individual. First, the multitudes were reached by God through Philip. Now, the individual is reached by God through Philip. That's the way the Lord works – both then and now. The leading of the Holy Spirit is absolutely the first essential element in each of the acts of conversion recorded in the book of Acts.

Today, a paralyzing effort is being put forth in the name of service to Jesus. Most of it is haphazard and totally devoid of the Spirit of God. Everyone stepping all over each other's erroneous theology renders any genuine Gospel message null and void, unless God uses it. We must pray in a definite and deliberate manner before we speak to others concerning Christ. That's the only way to ensure His leading in our speech and in the life we demonstrate by our obedience to Him as He loves others through us. We need the Holy Spirit to go before us and LEAD us into His will through Scripture; as opposed to us doing and saying whatever we want to do and say, and then demanding the Lord bless it. Well, I promise you that doesn't work, friends. Obedience is the second essential element of any conversion to Christ.

Third, we must know the Word of God, as faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God. The Holy Spirit will always take the things of Christ and reveal them to an honest and sincere individual seeking truth and wisdom from Holy Writ. The Spirit of God ONLY uses the Word of God, though. No other way. Even so, the paradox is that there MUST be a human instrument; and that instrument MUST be a true man of God to be effective. When the genuine man of God teaches the Word of God, as instructed by the Holy Spirit, to the entire world properly, correctly and completely, then, and ONLY then, is there any hope for revival or conversions. When sound doctrine is professed, a born-again child of God will be produced. God's Word does not return void to Him.

Well, this Ethiopian Eunuch was a high-ranking official in charge of the queens financial affairs. He would not have been traveling alone, by any means. There would have been a great retinue of guards and servants and other minor officials in this delegation. This is not a man sitting up in the

chariot holding the horse's reins in one hand and a Bible in the other, either. I know that's how most people drive their cars – but I digress. No, this man was sitting back with a parasol above him and a chauffeur driving him. He is riding in luxury; you may be absolutely sure.

The eunuch has recently been to the capitol of the earth's God-given religion – Jerusalem – and, as he returns from there, he is reading Isaiah. As he reads, however, he realizes he is completely in the dark concerning its meaning. He has no earthly idea what Isaiah meant when he wrote those things. That is when the Spirit of God moves the man of God, Philip, and instructs Philip to go witness from the Word of God. The Lord Himself has prepared this moment and meeting. The spiritual application here is deep, friends. Deep. See, the Word of God was already being read in the eunuch's chariot. God always meets us right where we are and creates the opportunity. So, we have the Spirit of God, the man of God, and the Word of God come together. That makes the perfect time for teaching a conversion....

***30 And Philip ran thither to him, and heard him read the prophet Esaias, and said, Understandest thou what thou readest?***

***31 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.***

***32 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:***

***33 In his humiliation his judgment was taken away: and who shall declare his generation? for his life is taken from the earth.***

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*Isaiah 53:3 He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were our faces from him; he was despised, and we esteemed him not. 4 Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and*

*afflicted. 5 But he was wounded for our transgressions; he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed. 6 All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all. 7 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. 8 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. 9 And he made his grave with the wicked, and with the rich in his death; because he had done no violence, neither was any deceit in his mouth ~*

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### ***Acts Chapter 8 ~***

***34 And the eunuch answered Philip, and said, I pray thee, of whom speaketh the prophet this? of himself, or of some other man?***

***35 Then Philip opened his mouth, and began at the same scripture, and preached unto him Jesus.***

~ Philip was able to open his mouth only because the Holy Spirit opened the situation for Philip. That's the method of the Spirit of God working through us. Things work out so perfectly when we will get out of the way and allow the leading of the Holy Spirit. That's when the Spirit of God will take the things of Christ and show them unto us – and the person we are speaking to, also. Again, I insist God only uses His Word to speak directly to our hearts. I strongly disagree with those who claim they were converted by hearing a song or some other outside influence. The song or movie may have affected them emotionally, and it might have influenced their will to make a decision; but, friends, if there wasn't a foundational preaching of the Word of God underneath that decision, then there wasn't a conversion. The Word of God is essential; without a correct teaching of the Word of God – there can be no conversion. Period. Simon Peter was marvelously used by the Lord; and Peter confirms the Word of God is mandatory in order for anyone to be saved....

*1 Peter 1:23 Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever.... 25 But the word of the Lord endureth for ever. And this is the word which by the gospel is preached unto you ~*

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### ***Acts chapter 8 ~***

***36 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?***

***37 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.***

~ Remember, Philip had just experienced a shameful fiasco with Simon the sorcerer, and Philip wasn't about to permit a repeat performance. Philip says, ".... if you believe with all your heart...." Well, this Ethiopian man believed – with all his heart; he believed that Jesus Christ was his Savior and the Son of the True and Living God....

***38 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.***

***39 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.***

~ When we are no longer required in service to the cause of Christ, we will be called away to another place; just as Philip was "caught away" at this time in which we are studying. Philip doesn't walk off the pages of Scripture, friends; no, he is snatched off the page in a sort of mini rapture. The Ethiopian eunuch rides off in his chariot rejoicing. Many people are unaware the first great church was not in Europe, not in England, not in America – it was in North Africa – in Ethiopia, to be precise. Through the witness and influence of one man whom we just met here in the Bible, a

church was born. We could say a lot about that church, but let's not – let us keep moving along now on safari....

***40 But Philip was found at Azotus: and passing through he preached in all the cities, till he came to Caesarea.***

~ "Azotus" is Ashdod, located in the Gaza strip. That's where we're going to part ways with Philip. From Ashdod, he went up through Joppa and on to what is now Tel Aviv. And with that, the Gospel has gone out to Samaria and Judaea.

That brings us to the conversion of Saul of Tarsus to Paul the apostle. Saul was a rank hypocrite and murderous Pharisee. This is certainly the most remarkable conversion in the Bible. The Ethiopian was converted in a plush chariot, but Saul's conversion takes place down in the dust of a Syrian road. Saul was likely comfortably riding along on a donkey when he was suddenly shaken.

We won't get the full picture of Saul's conversion in Acts. When we get to Philippians, we'll get the rest of the story. There, we'll look closely theologically, psychologically and philosophically at exactly what actually happened in the middle of the road Saul is on at this time. In this account, we only get the factual and historical record of the account. In Philippians, we discover the spiritual realm of Paul's conversion....

## **IX**

***1 And Saul, yet breathing out threatenings and slaughter against the disciples of the Lord, went unto the high priest,***

***2 And desired of him letters to Damascus to the synagogues, that if he found any of this way, whether they were men or women, he might bring them bound unto Jerusalem.***

~ The persecution in Jerusalem caused the church to scatter; and the rest of them went underground and into hiding. The Sadducees were satisfied because they had run the Christians out of town. At least they had shut

them up for the moment. They were satisfied with that, but not Saul. Saul had one thing on his mind: kill them all. Saul hated Jesus Christ and everyone and everything Jesus stood for. I am sure there has never been an enemy of God greater than this man, Saul. Saul's ambition was to track down and exterminate every Christian on the face of the earth....

***3 And as he journeyed, he came near Damascus: and suddenly there shined round about him a light from heaven:***

***4 And he fell to the earth, and heard a voice saying unto him, Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me?***

~ We'll see this story two more times in Acts; in fact, Paul never seemed to tire of recounting his conversion. In Philippians, he will absolutely lay his heart bare concerning what really happened. When Paul is taken before King Agrippa, he gives a masterpiece account of this conversion. Paul was a brilliant man, friends; likely a graduate from the University of Tarsus - which was the great Greek university of the day. He was from the school of Gamaliel - who was a religious man; but none of them knew the Lord Jesus Christ. Paul asks now, "... who art Thou, Lord?" Well, to know Jesus is life; and Paul did not know Him....

***5 And he said, Who art thou, Lord? And the Lord said, I am Jesus whom thou persecutest: it is hard for thee to kick against the pricks.***

***6 And he trembling and astonished said, Lord, what wilt thou have me to do? And the Lord said unto him, Arise, and go into the city, and it shall be told thee what thou must do.***

***7 And the men which journeyed with him stood speechless, hearing a voice, but seeing no man.***

***8 And Saul arose from the earth; and when his eyes were opened, he saw no man: but they led him by the hand, and brought him into Damascus.***

***9 And he was three days without sight, and neither did eat nor drink.***

***10 And there was a certain disciple at Damascus, named Ananias; and to him said the Lord in a vision, Ananias. And he said, Behold, I am here, Lord.***

***11 And the Lord said unto him, Arise, and go into the street which is called Straight, and enquire in the house of Judas for one called Saul, of Tarsus: for, behold, he prayeth,***

***12 And hath seen in a vision a man named Ananias coming in, and putting his hand on him, that he might receive his sight.***

~ Alright, we conclude this leg of our Spiritual Safari expedition through the entire Word of God with Saul converted and a new man preparing to do the Lord's work. This is true conversion, my beloved. We know how it works out. The men who were with Saul heard the voice, too - but they couldn't understand at this time. What they heard was simply a noise! Saul, and everyone around him, was utterly confused at this point.

Many people perform some strange gyrations when they become converted. Some shout for joy - but not Saul of Tarsus. I'm sure the only question Saul had for God during these three days in Damascus was what in the world were the great things he would have to suffer? That's all that I would have been able to think about. Saul didn't know – but he is going to find out as we move along in our next report ~

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