

PHILIP THE EVANGELIST

A profile of Philip

Who was Philip?

We first meet Philip in **Acts 6:5**, not the apostle, he was one of the seven men chosen and had to be *“of good reputation, full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom”*.

- He had hands laid on for this practical ministry to be a ‘table waiter’ [later called deacons].

THE MINISTRY OF PHILIP IN ACTS 8

Persecution resulted in a ‘scattering’

Acts 8:1 - Philip was one of the ones ‘scattered’ because of the persecution: *“A great persecution arose against the church ... they were all scattered throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria”*.

[Note that Jesus in **Acts 1:8** had told the apostles to be His witnesses in ‘Jerusalem, Judea and Samaria’ – it took persecution to get the disciples to obey Jesus!]

They were trained disciples

Acts 8:4 - *“those who were scattered went everywhere preaching the word”*. The ones scattered were already trained disciples and knew what to preach.

Acts 8:5 - *“Philip went down to the city of Samaria and preached Christ to them”*.

Miracles, healings and deliverance

Acts 8:6 - Multitudes *“heeded the things spoken by Philip”*. The power of God was with him and miracles were taking place.

Acts 8:7 - Deliverance from evil spirits was taking place! The paralysed and the lame were healed! Signs and wonders were happening!

Acts 8:8 - *“There was great joy in that city”*

- ➔ God sent Philip to Samaria. Look what can happen through one man!

Demonic strongman was overcome

Acts 8:9-11 - the city had previously been under the control of a demonic strongman in the person of Simon the sorcerer, who was known as *“the great power of God”*.

The people had *“heeded him because he had astonished them with his sorceries for a long time”*.

- ➔ The sorcerer’s power was overcome by the preaching of Philip, with signs and wonders (**Mark 16:15-18**)

People believed the preaching of Philip

Acts 8:12 – Philip preached:

- The things concerning the kingdom of God
- And the name of Jesus Christ

The result was:

- ➔ Both men and women were baptised

Philip knew that the next step in laying foundations was believers need to be baptised

Acts 8:13 – Simon was mesmerised by the ‘signs and wonders’ and he also ‘believed and was baptised’, but there was no real repentance (**v.22-23**)

Word spread to Jerusalem of what was happening in Samaria

Acts 8:14 – the apostles, Peter and John came down from Jerusalem to witness the revival and to release the Holy Spirit to the new believers.

Acts 8:15 – Peter and John *“prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit”*.

Baptised in the name of the Lord Jesus

Acts 8:16 – Philip had not released the Holy Spirit to the new believers, he had only baptised them *“in the name of the Lord Jesus”*

NOTE: Baptising in the name of the Lord Jesus was fulfilling the command of Jesus in **Matthew 28:19** to baptise *“in the name [singular] of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit”*.

❖ The ‘name’ is Jesus!

The Holy Spirit was imparted

Acts 8:17 - *“Then they laid hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit”*.

- ➔ The apostles prayed in verse 15, then laid hands on for the impartation in verse 17.

Foundations had been laid in Samaria

- ✓ Philip went out **preaching**
- ✓ People **believed** his preaching
- ✓ There was **repentance** and **faith**
- ✓ Demonic strongholds were overcome
- ✓ Those who believed were **baptised**
- ✓ The **Holy Spirit** was imparted

Revival was happening in Samaria!

- The Evangelist had preached & baptised
- Apostles had come and released the Holy Spirit
- Now the apostles could oversee the work in Samaria, releasing Philip to move on in the work of evangelism.

PHILIP OBEYED THE CALL TO GO AND SPEAK TO ONE MAN!

Instructions from the Lord

Acts 8:26 *“Arise and go toward the south along the road which goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza. This is desert.”*

- An angel/messenger gave Philip specific instructions of where to go.
- **Philip obeyed** the instruction.

There was a divine appointment for Philip!

An Ethiopian eunuch, a man of *“great authority”*, who had been to Jerusalem to worship, was travelling on that road.

- ➔ **Through this one man the gospel could reach Ethiopia and spread throughout northern Africa!**

Acts 8:28 – The man was *“reading Isaiah the prophet”*

v.29 – Again Philip receives instruction from the Spirit *“Go near and overtake this chariot”*.

v.30 – *“Philip ran to him”* and asked, *“Do you understand what you are reading?”*

Acts 8:31 – The man said, *“How can I, unless someone guides me?”* He invites Philip to come up into his chariot with him.

- The eunuch had a desire to understand what he was reading.

Philip now has the opportunity to give understanding of the Scriptures to the Ethiopian man.

v.35 – Philip was able to **preach Jesus** from the Old Testament Scriptures!

v.36 – through the preaching of Philip, this man knew he needed baptism.

The criteria for baptism

v.37 – *“if you believe with all your heart”*. He confessed *“I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God”*.

- ➔ Again, foundations are being laid **repentance and faith** [believe in Jesus] then **baptism**.

v.38 – Philip knew he had the authority to baptise a new believer.

The Spirit of the Lord again at work!

Acts 8:39 – Philip was ‘caught away’ by the Spirit of the Lord. This was a supernatural happening.

v.39 – *“Philip was found at Azotus”*. From here he continued his evangelistic work, preaching the gospel in *“all the cities till he came to Caesarea”*.

PHILIP THE EVANGELIST AT CAESAREA Acts 21:8-10

It seems that Philip settled in Caesarea, married and had a family, he had four daughters.

Acts 21:8 – Philip is called **‘the evangelist’**. He did not neglect the ministry call on his life and had become known as an evangelist.

- He received **‘in his house’** the **apostle Paul and his companions**.
- Philip was obviously known by Paul.

Acts 21:9 – We know from **Acts 6:5** that Philip was a man *“full of the Holy Spirit”*, and he had brought up his family to know the power of the Holy Spirit, for he had *“four daughters who prophesied”* – this was the **spiritual gift of prophesy**.

Acts 21:10 – Paul and his team *“stayed many days”* with Philip and were joined by the prophet Agabus.

- We have an awesome picture of **five-fold ministry gifts meeting together** in the house: Philip the **Evangelist**; Paul the **Apostle**; Agabus the **Prophet**!

What a house meeting that would have been!

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