

Being led by the Spirit

Acts 8:29-39

Philip and the Ethiopian Eunuch

²⁹ Then the Spirit said to Philip, “Go over to this chariot and join it.” ³⁰ So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, “Do you understand what you are reading?” ³¹ He replied, “How can I, unless someone guides me?” And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. ³² Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this: “Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter, and like a lamb silent before its shearer, so he does not open his mouth. ³³ In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth.” ³⁴ The eunuch asked Philip, “About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?” ³⁵ Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. ³⁶ As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, “Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?” ³⁷ He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. ³⁸ When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing.

Giving Honor to God the Father, Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit. To All of God’s Sons, Daughters, and Children. To Big Bethel Nation. We greet you in the matchless name of Jesus Christ. Beloved, our scripture lesson comes from Acts 8:29-39 (New Revised Standard Version). Our topic today is “The Spirit of the Lord is Upon Me.”

Good morning. Have you ever been driving, and you decided to travel a different route, because you felt something was leading you to do so? On one particular day this past week, I was led to a unique hallway in a building. In the hallway there was a father and his daughter who were crying. While they were crying, I noticed that they laid a blanket on the floor and were praying. They were praying for the man’s wife which was the daughter’s mother. I was supposed to go left, however they were on the right side of the hall. Once I walked into the hallway; they looked at me and said “You were looking for Us.” (Please note that this was not really a question. It was more like a welcome to join them.) I could feel the move of the Holy Spirit leading me to them. I felt that my schedule was changed to do what the Lord wanted me to do; and to be exactly where the Lord wanted me to be. I could not have planned in a hundred years to be at that exact moment at this exact point in time. We prayed together as we tabernacled in the presence of the Lord. I could feel the move of the Spirit as we prayed and the affirmation of being a willing vessel for the Lord. (Not anything that I did, but the Grace and Mercy of Our Lord).

This morning, I give God the Praise for allowing me to be in my right mind. I Thank God for my wife and children; I'm led by the Spirit to be with them and them with me. I Thank the Lord for allowing me to be in Rocky Mount; I'm led by the Spirit to be here. I'm Thankful to Pastor the Great People of God at Big Bethel; I'm led by the Spirit to be there. I'm Thankful for where the Spirit of the Lord leads me; Send Me I'll Go. My brother and my sister, has the Spirit of the Lord led you to a particular job? Has the Spirit of the Lord led you to a certain city? Has the Spirit of the Lord led you to a particular Church? Has the Spirit of the Lord led you to a new opportunity or experience to share the knowledge of Jesus Christ? Has the Spirit of the Lord led you to a place to share your faith in Christ?

I rejoice in knowing that "All things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose." (Romans 8:28)

Matt. 5:13 teaches us ¹³"You are the salt of the earth; but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything, but is thrown out and trampled underfoot.

I came to remind you this morning that You are the salt of the earth. Have you ever tasted butter beans that were a little bland? Then momma or grandma taught you how to add a little side meat and seasoning to those butter beans. Didn't they taste different? You see the salt or the seasoning changed the outcome. My brother and sister, you are the salt of the earth. God has given you the ability to bring about a positive change.

Matt. 5:14-16 says ¹⁴"You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. ¹⁵No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. ¹⁶In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven."

I came to let you know that you are the light of the world. I've witnessed a one-dollar light bulb give light to entire house. Can I get a witness? Sometimes, you may be led into what may seem to be a dark situation to bring about some light and tell somebody about the love of God through Christ Jesus. Can anybody witness that "This little light of mine; I'm 'gonna let it shine?"

According to the text, the Spirit told Philip, "Go over to this chariot and join it." Philip couldn't wait to do what the Spirit of the Lord told him to do. The scriptures says, "He ran up to the Ethiopian Eunuch's chariot. When he got there he heard him reading from the book of Isaiah and he asked him, "Do you understand what you are reading?" He said, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" In other words, I need a teacher. So, he invited Philip to sit beside him. The passage he was reading was as follows: "Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter, and like a lamb silent before its shearer, so he does not open his mouth. In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth." The eunuch inquired of Philip, "Who is the prophet talking about (himself or someone else)?" This opened up the

opportunity for Philip to proclaim the good news about Jesus Christ. As they were traveling; they came to some water and the Eunuch said, I see water, is there anything to prevent me from being baptized (paraphrasing)? Hallelujah, Somebody. He stopped the chariot and both of them went down in the water and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water, the scripture says that the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away. The Spirit of the Lord continued to lead Philip to do the Lord's will.

Where is the Spirit of the Lord leading you? Are you willing to follow? Beloved, follow closely and continue to Hold On to God's Unchanging Hand.

In closing,

I remember a story of a man who the Holy Spirit touched at 7:00 a.m. in the morning to pickup 2 gallons of milk. He didn't know why, but he was obedient. Once he picked it up, on his way home, the Lord led him to drive to a particular address. He did so. Then the Spirit encouraged him to knock on the door to deliver the milk. The man noticed that when he arrived at the door; it seemed that the lights were not on; and it was quiet in the house. He knocked lightly on the door. He waited a moment. Then, he realized that his nervousness inside and being at an unfamiliar location may have been a mistake, so he turned to go back to his car. He saw the door open and the light come on. It was a woman and a child standing in the door with her husband carrying a baby. "Good morning. Can we help you?" They said. The man walked back from his car and delivered the two gallons of milk. He said I was led to deliver this to you. He reached in his pocket and gave them two 20-dollar bills. (Tears began flowing from the husband and his wife's eyes) The husband said, "Sir we want to Thank You. We needed milk for the babies; and we didn't know what to do. I lost my job and I needed \$40 to buy some food for the family from the grocery store down the street. We got up at 7:00 a.m. this morning and prayed to God to send us milk for the babies and to make a way for us to get some food." Thank You for allowing the Spirit of the Lord to lead you. (With tears in his eyes the man walked quickly back to his car. Once in the car he was driving away and thanking God for leading him and touching his heart and this family).

Praise God, the Spirit of the Lord is still leading you and I today. We are still being led to the Glory of God. We are still being led to share the Gospel message of Jesus Christ. Please note that the Eunuch didn't see Philip anymore, but he went on rejoicing. Beloved, We've got to be led by the Holy Spirit. Share the Gospel message everywhere the Spirit of the Lord leads you. As we are led, we will share Christ, and salvation and rejoicing will take place.

Romans 10:9 – If thou shall confess with thy mouth, the Lord Jesus, and believe in thy heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thy shall be saved. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made to salvation. For the scripture sayeth, "Whoever believes on Him will not be put to shame."