

BETTER

**I Am Trying To Be Better,
Someone Please Help Me
To Understand!** Acts 8:26-40

Warren W. Wiersbe, [The Bible Exposition Commentary](#), vol. 1 (Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1996), 436–438.

Acts 8:26–31 (NKJV)

26 Now an angel of the Lord spoke to Philip, saying, “Arise and go toward the south along the road which goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.” This is desert.

27 So he arose and went. And behold, a man of Ethiopia, a eunuch of great authority under Candace the queen of the Ethiopians, who had charge of all her treasury, and had come to Jerusalem to worship,

28 was returning. And sitting in his chariot, he was reading Isaiah the prophet.

29 Then the Spirit said to Philip, “Go near and overtake this chariot.”

30 So Philip ran to him, and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah, and said, “Do you understand what you are reading?”

31 And he said, “How can I, unless someone guides me?” And he asked Philip to come up and sit with him.

1. When We Share The Gospel We Need To Be Both Faithful And Obedient

- Philip was not only a faithful preacher; he was also an obedient personal worker. Like his Master, he was willing to leave the crowds and deal with one lost soul.
- The angel could have told this Ethiopian official how to be saved, but God has not given the commission to angels: He has given it to His people.

1. When We Share The Gospel We Need To Be Both Faithful And Obedient

- Angels have never personally experienced God's grace; therefore, they can never bear witness of what it means to be saved.

1 Corinthians 4:1–2 (NKJV)

1 Let a man so consider us, as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God.

2 Moreover it is required in stewards that one be found faithful.

Faithful - 4103 - *1 trusty, faithful. 1a of persons who show themselves faithful in the transaction of business, the execution of commands, or the discharge of official duties. 1b one who kept his plighted faith, worthy of trust. 1c that can be relied on.*

- If the Lord speaks to us, He should be able to rely on us.

Romans 1:5–6 (NKJV)

5 Through Him we have received grace and apostleship for obedience to the faith among all nations for His name,
6 among whom you also are the called of Jesus Christ;

Obedience - 5218 ὑπακοή [hupakoe /hoop·ak·o·ay/] 1 obedience, compliance, submission. 2 obedience rendered to anyone's counsels, an obedience shown in observing the requirements of Christianity.

- We obey the Spirit of God.

We Are In The Business Of Saving Souls

- D.L. Moody once asked a man about his soul, and the man replied, “It’s none of your business!”
- “Oh, yes, it is my business!” Moody said; and the man immediately exclaimed, “Then you must be D.L. Moody!”

We Are In The Business Of Saving Souls

- It is every Christian's business to share the Gospel with others, and to do it without fear or apology.

2 ■ **We Must Be Led By The Spirit Of God When Witnessing To Others**

- Philip's experience ought to encourage us in our own personal witness for the Lord.
- To begin with, God directed Philip to the right person at the right time.

2 ■ **We Must Be Led By The Spirit Of God When Witnessing To Others**

- You and I are not likely to have angels instruct us, but we can know the guidance of the Holy Spirit in our witnessing, if we are walking in the Spirit and praying for God's direction.

Proverbs 3:5–6 (NKJV)

5 Trust in the LORD with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding;

6 In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths.

Revelation 3:8 (NKJV)

“I know your works. See, I have set before you an open door, and no one can shut it; for you have a little strength, have kept My word, and have not denied My name.

- God will open opportunities for us to share the gospel.
- As Philip drew near to the chariot, he heard the man reading from the Prophet Isaiah. (It was customary in those days for students to read out loud.)
- God had already prepared the man's heart to receive Philip's witness! If we obey the Lord's leading, we can be sure that God will go before us and open the way for our witness.

Isaiah 53 Was The Passage He Was Reading, The Prophecy Of God's Suffering Servant

- Isaiah 53 describes our Lord Jesus Christ in His birth (*Isa. 53:1–2*), life and ministry (*Isa. 53:3*), substitutionary death (*Isa. 53:4–9*), and victorious resurrection (*Isa. 53:10–12*).
- Isaiah 53:4 should be connected with 1 Peter 2:24; Isaiah 53:7 with Matthew 26:62–63; Isaiah 53:9 with Matthew 27:57–60; and Isaiah 53:12 with Luke 23:34, 37.

- The Ethiopian focused on Isaiah 53:7–8, which describes our Lord as the willing Sacrifice for sinners, even to the point of losing His human rights. He was the substitute sacrifice for humanity.

Isaiah 53:7–8 (NKJV)

7 He was oppressed and He was afflicted, Yet He opened not His mouth; He was led as a lamb to the slaughter, And as a sheep before its shearers is silent, So He opened not His mouth.
8 He was taken from prison and from judgment, And who will declare His generation? For He was cut off from the land of the living; For the transgressions of My people He was stricken.

The idea of substitutionary sacrifice is one that is found from the beginning of the Bible to the end.

- God killed animals so that He might clothe Adam and Eve (*Gen. 3:21*).
- He provided a ram to die in the place of Isaac (*Gen. 22:13*).

- At Passover, innocent lambs died for the people of Israel (*Ex. 12*); and the entire Jewish religious system was based on the shedding of blood (*Lev. 17, especially v. 11*).
- Jesus Christ is the fulfillment of both the Old Testament types and the prophecies (*John 1:29; Rev. 5*).

Hebrews 9:13–15 (NKJV)

13 For if the blood of bulls and goats and the ashes of a heifer, sprinkling the unclean, sanctifies for the purifying of the flesh,

14 how much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?

15 And for this reason He is the Mediator of the new covenant, by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions under the first covenant, that those who are called may receive the promise of the eternal inheritance.

1 Peter 1:18–20 (NKJV)

18 knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold, from your aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers,

19 but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.

20 He indeed was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you

3. You Must Be Willing To Share What You Know

- As Philip explained the verses to him, the Ethiopian began to understand the Gospel because the Spirit of God was opening his mind to God's truth.
- You can be willing if you are prepared.

3 You Must Be Willing To Share What You Know

2 Timothy 2:15 (NKJV)

Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

1 Peter 3:15 (TNIV)

But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect,

- We should be ready to help others understand the truths of the word of God that they to might be saved by the blood of Jesus Christ!

We Want Others To Understand The Plan Of Salvation

- It is not enough for the lost sinner to desire salvation; he must also understand God's plan of salvation.
- It is the heart that understands the Word that eventually bears fruit.

We Want Others To Understand The Plan Of Salvation

Matthew 13:23 (TNIV)

But the seed falling on good soil refers to people who hear the word and understand it. They produce a crop, yielding a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown.”

Faith Desires To Be Identified With Christ

- “Faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God” (*Rom. 10:17*).
- The Ethiopian believed on Jesus Christ and was born again!

Faith Desires To Be Identified With Christ

- So real was his experience that he insisted on stopping the caravan and being baptized immediately!
- He was no “closet Christian”; he wanted everybody to know what the Lord had done for him.

- In the days of the early church, converts were not baptized unless they first gave a clear testimony of their faith in Jesus Christ. And keep in mind that the Ethiopian was speaking not only to Philip but also to those in the caravan who were near his chariot.
- He was an important man, and you can be sure that his attendants were paying close attention now he was sharing his faith in Jesus Christ.

Can you help someone understand please?