



**As for you, always be sober-minded, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.**

### Teaching 3 – Principles in reaching others

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## PRINCIPLES IN REACHING OTHERS FOR CHRIST

One of the most amazing accounts of a person's coming to know Jesus is found in **Acts 8:26–38** when the Lord directed Philip to the Ethiopian eunuch. We don't know the man's name, but he was a eunuch of great authority under Candace, queen of Ethiopia, and he had come to Jerusalem to worship.

While the eunuch sat in his chariot reading from the Book of Isaiah, the **Holy Spirit** spoke to Philip, "Go near and overtake this chariot." As Philip ran to him he heard him reading and said, "Do you understand what you are reading?" The man responded, "**How can I, unless someone guides me?**" He then invited Philip to come up and sit with him. The place in the Scripture which he read was this:

*He was led as a sheep to the slaughter; and as a lamb before its shearers is silent, so He opened not His mouth. In His humiliation His justice was taken away, and who will declare His generation? For His life is taken from the earth.* The eunuch then said, "I ask you, of who does the prophet say this, of himself or of some other man?" Philip responded and, beginning at this Scripture, **preached Jesus to him.**

### SCRIPTURE AND SOUL WINNING:

Before we consider our role in bringing people to Christ, we must first recognize God's heart in the matter. What does the Scripture say about the eternal condition of all humanity? **John 3:3, Ephesians 2:12**

What does the Scripture say about God's desire for all humanity? **John 6:37 and 2 Peter 3:9**

What is our primary responsibility in winning the lost to Christ **Acts 1:8?**

In God's plan we are to work with Him for salvation of souls **1 Corinthians 3:9** but who is it that actually causes a person to come to the Lord? **John 6:44**

The Scripture makes it clear that we can't save anyone—only God can. At the same time God asks for our assistance through witnessing. As we declare what we know and what we have seen, God uses that testimony to bring people to Himself. But our testimony is not to be so much what God has done for us as it is to be a declaration of our understanding of who Jesus

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is. Remember from our text that Philip began at the Scripture and preached Jesus. How do you think Philip presented Jesus?

## **BEING A WITNESS:**

Jesus has called us to be witnesses. By divine commission we are to tell the world about Jesus. What is it that we are actually commissioned to do? **Mark 16:15** Notice that there is a great deal of Christian activity that goes on, presumably to be a witness, but it is motivated by far less than a sensitive understanding of what it actually means to be a witness. There are many people who feel, "I just couldn't witness because I don't have the boldness of other people." Yet the Bible says nothing about being a witness on the grounds of some natural boldness we may have. The majority of us feel a certain degree of timidity. We don't want anyone to feel we are imposing ourselves, especially when it comes to spiritual matters. When the Lord said we will be His witnesses, He was not saying something that would be impractical for any of us. So there must be a way for this to happen for all of us, as opposed to its being something that only a handful of select personality types can do.

**Witness:** One who testifies to the truth he has experienced, a witness, one who has knowledge of a fact and can give information concerning it. The word in itself does not imply death, but many of the first-century witnesses did give their lives, with the result that the word came denotes a martyr, one who witnesses for Christ by his death.

A witness is evidence in a case, a person who has, presumably, some credibility on the subject because of experience, which shows in their own convictions. A witness is called to be a spokesperson for the issue on trial. To be a witness, then, is to have the character of the Lord working in us so that we are credible to people.

What's on trial in the world today is whether or not Jesus Christ is believable as the Son of God, whether or not He's powerful as the Savior of the world, and whether or not He is genuine in what He brings to a person's life.

## **HOLY SPIRIT ENABLING:**

In recognizing that we are called by Jesus to be witnesses, it's important that we see that He will give the power of the Holy Spirit to make it happen. That recognition and a subsequent relying on His help begins the process for effective witnessing. When all elements of strength, ability, boldness, and even desire seem gone, God's mightiness is there to draw on. Never try to extend God's Kingdom without his help and direction.

How and when do we receive Holy Spirit power? **Acts 1:8**

What is a primary reason for the Holy Spirit's power in the life of a believer? **Acts 1:8**

List attitudes and characteristics of a person who witnesses under the influence of the Holy Spirit, according to the verses below: List ways in which divine power is imparted to the believer:

**2 Corinthians 10:1**

**Galatians 5:22**

**Philippians 1:16, 17**

**Psalms 119:11**

**Acts 4:31**

**Colossians 4:2**

**Hebrews 10:25**

**Acts 2:1**

**The Place: Acts 8:26:** Philip was directed by God to meet a unique need in an odd place.

How can we be more open to the Holy Spirit to be used for witnessing?

**The Person: Acts 8:27** The Ethiopian eunuch was searching and open to the truth.

Who do you feel is searching for the truth, be sensitive?

**The Time: Acts 8:29** The Holy Spirit said go:

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Purse for a minute, do you know what means when God speaks to your heart?  
**The Question: Acts 8:30** Philip asked him about what he was reading.

What questions could you ask a person about Jesus Christ?

## **SHARING THE GOSPEL:**

List some ideas you have in sharing the Gospel with others.

**Preaching:** To herald, tell, publicly proclaim, communicate, and preach. The herald is to exhort, call out with a clear voice, communicate, and preach. The herald is to give a public announcement of an official message and to issue whatever demands the message entails. The Christian herald is to proclaim the message of salvation through Jesus Christ and issue a summons to repent and receive forgiveness of sins.

**The Decision: Acts 8:36-38**, the eunuch believes and is baptized.

## **TIMES AND SEASONS FOR EVANGELISM:**

Notice the seasonal steps involved in leading people to Christ. Each is important in its own way, and all are related to conversion and subsequent growth in Christ.

### **Sowing the seed:**

List some people around you, who you would like to receive Jesus as Lord of their lives?

Think of ways you could plant a seed of hope to them?

### **Watering the seed:**

List what you could do to keep these persons progressively aware of their need for Jesus.

### **Reaping the harvest:**

Study relevant scriptures in leading others to Jesus, write them down.

### **Follow Up:**

List several ideas you will do for them, once they receive Jesus.

## **A PRAYER:**

Father God, I have come to recognize some valuable truths for winning the lost. I admit that I have made some mistakes in the past in my approach to being a soul winner. I want you to use me to touch the lives of people who need Jesus. Use my lips, my hands, my feet, my talents, and the resources you have given me to make this happen. I thank you for hearing my prayer because I know that you want people to come to know Jesus.

**André Rivenell**