Dearly Beloved

Philippians 4:1 Therefore, my brethren *dearly beloved* and longed for, my joy and crown, so stand fast in the Lord *DEARLY BELOVED.*

September 2024

Psalms 100:1-5 Make a joyful noise unto the LORD, all ye lands. Serve the LORD with gladness: come before his presence with singing. Know ye that the LORD he *is* God: *it is* he *that* hath made us, and not we ourselves; *we are* his people, and the sheep of his pasture. Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, *and* into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, *and* bless his name. For the LORD *is* good; his mercy *is* everlasting; and his truth *endureth* to all generations.

Voice of the Saints

Surrender to be used by God

Acts 8:26-29 KJV

[26] And the angel of the Lord spake unto Philip, saying, Arise, and go toward the south unto the way that goeth down from Jerusalem unto Gaza, which is desert. [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.

Sometimes people ask, "Why doesn't God use me?" It may be that you're not making yourself useable. God never leaves a surrendered vessel unfilled. And God never leaves a filled vessel unused. If you surrender yourself, He'll fill you with the Holy Spirit. God can't fill that which is already filled. You've got to empty out
yourself, your ambition, your pride, and your sin and say, "Lord, fill me." He will, and what God fills, He uses.

God has a plan for you, just as he had a plan for Philip so long ago. Philip was an ordinary person God used in an extraordinary way. God's ways are often unknown. Phillip had no way of knowing he was going to be used of God to witness to a very important and strategic man. All he knew was God had spoken and said, "Go south to Gaza." Philip followed God by taking the next step that was in front of him, and it had major impact.

You have no way of knowing how God is going to use you. Surrender to Him and He will give you the next step.

Submitted by

Sister Sheri Gates

Pastor's Corner

Let's look at life and learn from God's word, and apply it accordingly. Not all things make sense to us because of several reasons, but let's begin with a simple process.

Proverbs 9:10 says
The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom: and the knowledge of the holy is understanding.

Let's start here...

Knowledge	Understanding	Wisdom
Facts	Meaning	What To Do Next
Information	Principles	Application
Memory	Reason	Action
Scholars	Teachers	Prophets

Proverbs 4:7 says "Wisdom is the principal thing; therefore get wisdom: and with all thy getting get understanding."

Take a moment and look at the chart one more time.

Pastor Jake

Spirit of the Living God

Apart from you we can do nothing!

Transform Your Church into the Image of Jesus Christ! Release Your Power to bring healing to the sick, freedom to the oppressed and comfort to those who mourn.

Pour Your love into our Hearts and fill us with compassion to answer the call of the homeless and the hungry and to enfold orphans, widows and the elderly in your care.

Give us wisdom and insight into the complex problems we face today.

Help us to use the resources of the earth for the well-being of all.

Holy Spirit, we need your comfort and guidance. Transform our hearts!

Now Lord You promised that you would pour out Your Spirit on a repented people and give us Your power, ability, efficiency, abundance, strength, miracle workings and might in the Spirit; to carry out Your will and purpose for your Church! You promised Lord that You would send the Comforter, the Spirit of God to lead us into truth and give us the very words to say, and that Your Spirit would give us remembrance of Your Word. Lord, you stated that Your Spirit would dwell in us and teach us and show us things to come. Lord, you stated that Your Spirit would convict and expose sin, show right living and show that there would be Judgement!

You promised Lord, you would not leave us without the strength and wisdom to carry out Your will and to be witnesses to those around us in word and deed! To be Global witnesses, starting in Anacortes and reaching the farthest places of our world.

Lord, You gave us Your Spirit that we might reflect Your light in this dark world. And speaking of the Holy Spirit You promised that if we would believe on You as the scripture said that out of our innermost being our hearts… would flow rivers of living water!

Lord you promised to baptize us with the Holy Spirit and fire to purge us of sin and wrong thinking! Lord, You promised that we would be able to do all things that You willed if we would repent and receive Your Spirit.

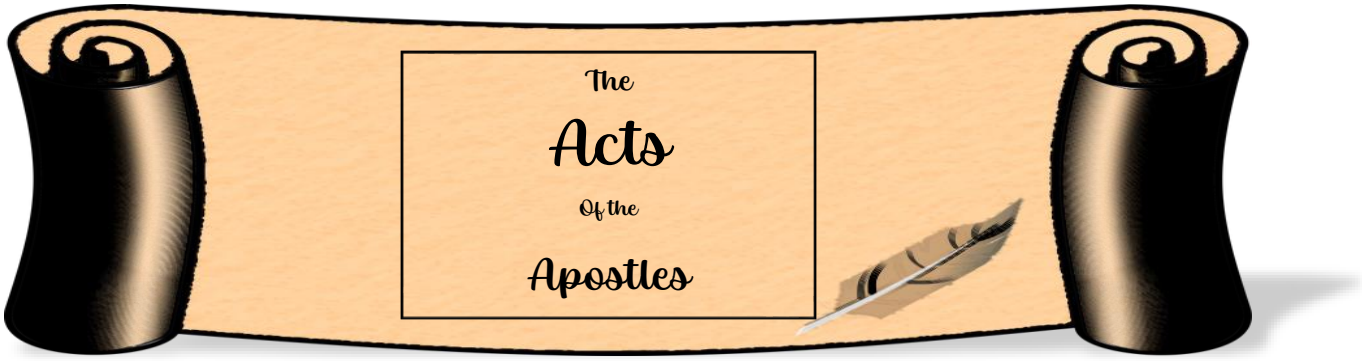
Now Father we pray for a fresh anointing of Your Holy Spirit; that we may have a new boldness to be Your witnesses. We pray that we, the church, be of one heart and one spirit to proclaim the Gospel of Salvation and the hope of eternal live to all we meet or are associated with. We pray that we become as the apostle Paul who would go anywhere and speak to anyone of the Lord Jesus and His power to transform a life! We pray that!

We too will shout from our hearts, “I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ for it is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believes!” Also, we pray that we can come to others not with man’s speech, wisdom, or enticing words: but in Your Word and in true meekness with a powerful anointed demonstration of the Holy Spirit Power! Help us Lord show others that the Kingdom of God is not the things of this world, but is righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit! All this we ask: so that, Lord, You receive the glory and honor and praise and that people would be drawn to you. In Jesus Name we pray!

Let’s pray and receive today!

Lord let the weight of Your glory fall!

Bishop Ed Robinson



Chapter 7 & 8

Where Chapter 6 ends with Stephen preaching the gospel to the Grecians and foreign Jews. They had thought themselves learned and wanted to argue with Stephen but couldn't win because of the power and God given wisdom he had. He was so anointed by God, his face shone with the glory of God, and he looked to them like an angel.

So, after Stephen's arrest is where Chapter 7 picks up. The high priest asked Stephen if the charges against him were true and instead of defending himself, he began to give them a brief history of the Jewish people from the time of Abraham.

In this speech, he does a few things. One, he showed that he knew the Law of Moses and how God had dealt with the children of Israel, second, he showed that anything that the Jews had or have was directly the hand of God and lastly that he believe that Jesus was the fulfillment of the promises and prophecies of Moses saying that He would raise up from amongst them a savior.

All of the history shows that regardless of where the Israelites were in their walk with God or the lack of, He was merciful and good to them, provided for them and was forever faithful, even when they usually weren't. When God's judgement fell on them, it was still an act of love to bring them back to Him.

Stephen stated that they had betrayed and murdered Jesus, just like their fathers before them had killed the prophets of God. Then his accusers became enraged because they could not deny what Stephen said. Stephen then looked up and saw Jesus and told them that Jesus was standing at the right hand of God.

Now, we know, God, because He is Spirit, has no physical hand except the hands of Jesus. The "right hand of God" signifies the power of God. So, this enraged them even further because Stephen was saying that Jesus had the power of God. Through all of this, Stephen had peace and did not come at them like they were going at him.

So, they took him outside the city and stoned Stephen to death. The witnesses laid down their clothes at the feet of a young man, Saul of Tarsus. This Saul was more than just a casual observer to what was happening, and he wasn't there just to watch the coats of those throwing the stones, Saul was "consenting unto his death".

This is where chapter 8 begins with the diaspora of the new Christians. They begin in Jerusalem and then scattered throughout Judea and Samaria. The apostles stayed in Jerusalem. The persecution that caused them to scatter to other parts of the region is what was needed to spread the gospel outside of Jerusalem. As must as we don't want to be persecuted, it can serve God's purpose.

The church was devastated over Stephen's death. Devout men went and got Stephen's body and buried him and mourned the loss of him.

Saul became bold after Stephen's death. He would go house to house having men and women who believe in Jesus put in prison. He wanted to wipe anyone who believed completely out. He brought charges against them and really hurt the young church. But the church was unwavering and continued to preach the gospel.

Philip then arose to fill the void that Stephen's death had caused. He went down to Samaria and preached the gospel. There were many who were delivered from demons and healed of different issues.

Simon was a resident of Samaria. He had used sorcery and bewitched the people there. He was kind of famous there with all that he did. The people thought Simon's power had come from God. But when Philip began to preach truth, the people believed and were baptized in the name of Jesus. Even Simon believed and was baptized! Simon was fascinated by the miracles that were done through Philip's ministry.

When the apostles heard that revival had broken out in Samaria, they sent Peter and John to help them out. When Peter and John arrived, they began to pray for all the new converts, and they received the Holy Ghost. Simon saw all of this, and he offered them money to get the power to lay hands on people to receive the Holy Ghost. Peter told him that he needed to repent that his heart wasn't right, he only wanted power and money. It never says whether he did or not. He was a new convert; the Bible doesn't say he had the Holy Ghost yet. He did ask them to pray for him that God would forgive him. A lot of people try to bring their old habits and things with them as they learn about Jesus and being a Christian, through the Spirit of God and preaching they learn that what they were doing was wrong and repent, forsaking their old habits. I'd like to think that he found a place of true repentance, received the baptism of the Holy Ghost and was saved.

Philip was then directed by God to go down into Gaza. This is where he met the Ethiopian eunuch. The eunuch had great authority under Candace, queen of Ethiopia. Now, we can only speculate why he would be reading scripture. He could have been of Hebrew descent or maybe he was just curious we really don't know. The Spirit of God directed Philip to go talk to him and he asked the eunuch if he understood what he was reading. The eunuch confessed he did not understand and needed someone to tell him what it meant.

Philip then, beginning where the eunuch was in Isaiah, preached Jesus to him. The eunuch believed that Jesus was the Son of God. Philip preached to him the need to be baptized so when they came to some water, he wanted Philip to baptize him. So, upon his profession of faith, he was baptized. We can only assume he received the Holy Ghost when he was baptized, because as they came out of the water, the Spirit of God caught Philip away and the eunuch didn't see him anymore. Philip was then in Azotus and began to preach in all the cities until he got to Caesarea. God would have completed the work He had started in the eunuch. Submitted by Tatti Cheek

Don’t Forget To Communicate

Communication – the original delivery service. Getting something to another. Jesus said, “By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.” Mistakenly, many read” …love one for another.” It is possible to order a boxcar full of food for hungry and starving people living in a remote village. The boxcar arrives at the nearest siding and is dropped off by the conductor of the train. There it is. A boxcar full of food for the hungry. But only when the boxes of food have been off-loaded onto trucks and wagons and delivered to the people are the people benefited. Only then can it be said MISSION ACCOMPLISHED. Though intended for the people, it must be delivered to them. This is communication.

This is one of Paul’s least-used teachings. By and large, society today has relegated communication to being only the act of speaking and or sending and receiving messages. Within this context, this is not a bad thing. We would do well to remember Hebrews 13:16 which urges us “… to do good, and to communicate forget not:”

In a broader sense, however, Paul reminds us of a higher level of communication… that of sharing benevolence. In his letter to the Galatians, he said, “As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men…” This is the true rule about doing good.

“The opportunity to do good,” said Cotton Mather, “imposes the obligation to do it.” When we have the opportunity to do so, we are to do good. Not when it is convenient, or when it is in our best interest, or when it adds to our notoriety. The rule is that we are to do it when we have the opportunity. If we have the opportunity to do good, we are to do it and should be thankful for the privilege. “Withhold not good from them to whom it is due, when it is in the power of thine hand to do it.” (Proverbs 3:27)

And it is to be done to all people. Not just to our family only, nor to our domination only, certainly not just to our own color, and not to those who live in the same land as us, but to all mankind. If we can reach and benefit a man who lives on the other side of the world, a man whom we have never seen, still we are to do him good. In this manner of communication goodness is the narrow and selfish spirit of clanship overcome wherever this happens. Jesus said, “Insomuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me.” This is Christianity.

May God bless you today.

Pastor Francis Mason

Ketcham
11-16
"IF HEAVEN IS THAT PRETTY ON THE BOTTOM, THINK HOW IT MUST LOOK ON TOP!"

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