

“Jesus People Open Themselves to Spirit-Led Encounters”

Acts 8:1, 4, 26-40

A believer’s obedience to Spirit-led encounters is important because God is always preparing hearts for the gospel.

- **GOD’S PEOPLE CAN EXPECT TO BE MOVED OUT OF THEIR COMFORT ZONE.**

... And there arose on that day a great persecution against the church in Jerusalem, and they were all scattered throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria, except the apostles. ⁴Now those who were scattered went about preaching the word. ²⁶Now an angel of the Lord said to Philip, “Rise and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.” This is a desert place. ²⁷And he rose and went.

Acts 8:1, 4, 26-27a (English Standard Version)

“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.” Acts 1:8 (ESV)

“scattered” (Acts 8:4) = scattered in order to be planted

Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. 2 Corinthians 5:20a (ESV)

- **A BELIEVER’S OBEDIENCE TO SPIRIT-LED ENCOUNTERS IS IMPORTANT BECAUSE GOD PREPARES HEARTS TO HEAR THE GOSPEL.**

And he rose and went. And there was an Ethiopian, a eunuch, a court official of Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, who was in charge of all her treasure. He had come to Jerusalem to worship ²⁸and was returning, seated in his chariot, and he was reading the prophet Isaiah. ²⁹And the Spirit said to Philip, “Go over and join this chariot.” ³⁰So Philip ran to him and heard him reading Isaiah the prophet and asked, “Do you understand what you are reading?” ³¹And he said, “How can I, unless someone guides me?” And he invited Philip to come up and sit with him. ³²Now the passage of the Scripture that he was reading was this: “Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter and like a lamb before its shearer is silent, so he opens not his mouth. ³³In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life

is taken away from the earth.” ³⁴And the eunuch said to Philip, “About whom, I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?” ³⁵Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning with this Scripture he told him the good news about Jesus. ³⁶And as they were going along the road they came to some water, and the eunuch said, “See, here is water! What prevents me from being baptized?” ³⁸And he commanded the chariot to stop, and they both went down into the water, Philip and the eunuch, and he baptized him. Acts 8:27-38 (ESV)

Three Observations about Spirit-Led Encounters

- Listening to the Spirit can result in Spirit-led encounters. (See Acts 8:29)
- God’s Spirit prepares people’s hearts to hear the gospel.

I planted the seed in your hearts, and Apollos watered it, but it was God who made it grow. ⁷It’s not important who does the planting, or who does the watering. What’s important is that God makes the seed grow.

1 Corinthians 3:6-7 (New Living Translation)

- Christians need to be prepared to give whatever witness is needed.

Two Witnessing Concepts from *God Space*

by Doug Pollock

- Learn to listen to the person far from God.
- Asking good “wondering” questions creates opportunities to listen and connect.

- **YOU NEVER KNOW HOW GOD WILL USE YOUR SPIRIT-LED WITNESS.**

And as they were going along the road they came to some water, and the eunuch said, “See, here is water! What prevents me from being baptized?” . . . ³⁸And he commanded the chariot to stop, and they both went down into the water, Philip and the eunuch, and he baptized him. ³⁹And when they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord carried Philip away, and the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. Acts 8:36-39 (ESV)