

SPREAD THE WORD

A SERIES IN ACTS

The Beauty of a
Transformed Life
Acts 8:26-40

Rev. Bradley S. Belcher
Senior Pastor

 bethel *community*
CHURCH

The Beauty of a Transformed Life

The Beauty of a Transformed Life

Acts 8:26-40 Now 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. 27 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 28 and was returning, seated in his chariot, and he was reading the prophet Isaiah. 29 And the Spirit said to Philip, “Go over and join this chariot.” -

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30 So Philip ran to him and heard him reading Isaiah the prophet and asked, “Do you understand what you are reading?” 31 And he said, “How can I, unless someone guides me?” And he invited Philip to come up and sit with 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 before its shearer is silent, so he opens not his mouth. 33 In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth.” -

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34 And the eunuch said to Philip, “About whom, I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?” 35 Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning with this Scripture he told him the good news about Jesus. 36 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?” 38 And he commanded the chariot to stop, and they both went down into the water, Philip and the eunuch, and he baptized him. -

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39 And 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. 40 But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he passed through he preached the gospel to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.
(ESV)

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To escape persecution in Jerusalem, Philip fled to Samaria, where he continued preaching the gospel. While he was there, an angel commanded him to meet an Ethiopian official on the road between Jerusalem and Gaza. The man became a believer before continuing on to Ethiopia. Philip then went from Azotus to Caesarea.

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I. To follow God's leading we need to be:

A. Open to God's calling.

26 Now 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. 27 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

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I. To follow God's leading we need to be:

A. Open to God's calling.

- *Isaiah 6:8 And I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?" Then I said, "Here I am! Send me."*

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I. To follow God's leading we need to be:

B. Obedient to the Spirit's direction.

29 And the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over and join this chariot." 30 So Philip ran to him

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I. To follow God's leading we need to be:

C. Sensitive to the needs of others.

30 ...and heard him reading Isaiah the prophet and asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?"

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II. To share our faith with others we need to:

A. Humbly guide others into truth.

31 And he said, “How can I, unless someone guides me?”

And he invited Philip to come up and sit with him.

- *Matthew 28:19-20 Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”*

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II. To share our faith with others we need to:

B. Handle the Word rightly.

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 before its shearer is silent, so he opens not his mouth.

33 In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth.” -

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II. To share our faith with others we need to:

B. Handle the Word rightly.

34 And the eunuch said to Philip, “About whom, I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?” 35 Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning with this Scripture

- *2 Timothy 2:15 Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth.*

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II. To share our faith with others we need to:

C. Proclaim the good news.

35 ...he told him the good news about Jesus.

- *Isaiah 7:14 Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.*
- *Isaiah 9:6-7 For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, -*

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II. To share our faith with others we need to:

C. Proclaim the good news.

35 ...he told him the good news about Jesus.

- ***Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. 7 Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.***

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III. A truly transformed life will demonstrate:

A. An enthusiastic faith.

36 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?"

- *Revelation 3:15-16 "I know your works: you are neither cold nor hot. Would that you were either cold or hot! 16 So, because you are lukewarm, and neither hot nor cold, I will spit you out of my mouth."*

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III. A truly transformed life will demonstrate:

B. A willing obedience.

38 And he commanded the chariot to stop, and they both went down into the water, Philip and the eunuch, and he baptized him.

- *Matthew 10:32-33 So everyone who acknowledges me before men, I also will acknowledge before my Father who is in heaven, 33 but whoever denies me before men, I also will deny before my Father who is in heaven.*

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III. A truly transformed life will demonstrate:

C. An enduring joy.

39 And 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.

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III. A truly transformed life will demonstrate:

D. A relentless divine purpose.

40 But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he passed through he preached the gospel to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

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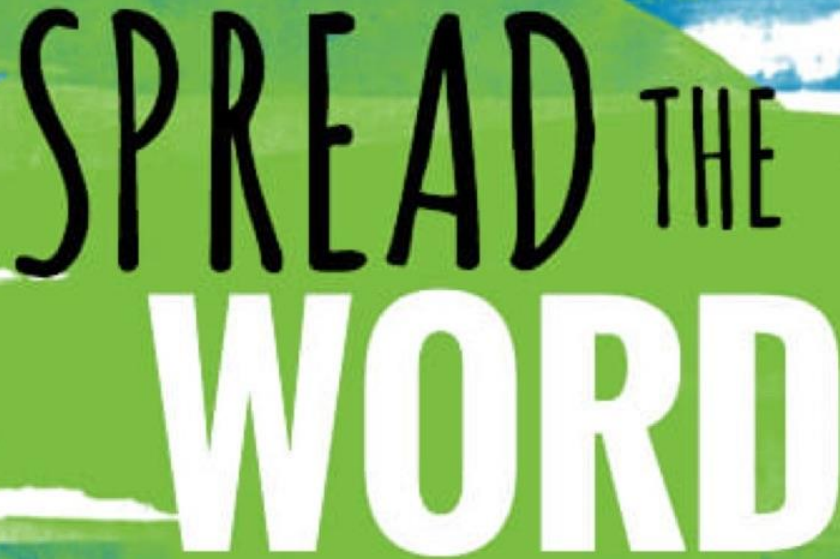
The Beauty of a Transformed Life

To follow God's leading in our lives we need to be open to God's calling, obedient to the Spirit's direction, and sensitive to the needs of others.

To share our faith with others we need to humbly guide people into truth, handling the Word rightly, as we proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ.

A truly transformed life will demonstrate an enthusiastic faith, a willing obedience, an enduring joy, that is made manifest through a relentless divine purpose.

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