

May 28, 2023
Acts 8:26-40
“Desolate Places”

PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICAL APPLICATION

A spiritual “Conversion” is the process of changing from one type of religion or world view to another. When a person is born again they have a change of mind about God and who He is that radically changes their lives, see **II Corinthians 5:17**.

Philip had been led out there by an angel of the Lord, he hears this man reading from the book of Isaiah. Then, led by the Holy Spirit, he was instructed, go join him. Philip asked a pertinent question, do you understand what you are reading sir? The answer was no, I need someone to guide me. Be prepared to share your faith with others. Righteousness by faith alone is beautifully spelled out for all to see in **Romans 10:8-17**.

Outward signs of the eunuch’s conversion were his desire to be baptized and joy. Keep in mind, this guy was not a Jew, not a Samaritan, but an African Gentile! Philip was immediately taken away after the man’s baptism, this was a supernatural departure for sure. The Ethiopian continued on his way; the gospel was heading back to Egypt in a converted vessel of clay. Don’t despise humble beginnings or desolate places!

This encounter was by the providence of God, through this meeting the gospel would be passed off into Gentile hands and sent on its way to Egypt. By God’s providence, how did you come to a saving knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ? Since your conversion, have you shared this good news with others?

Soteriology is the work of salvation and it is totally God’s work. See **John 6:44**. Philip’s witness to the Ethiopian may be considered the first conversion of a Gentile that we know of. Philip allowed himself to be led along by the Lord. Do you? Philip’s next appearance will be in **Acts 21** some 20 years later, still evangelizing!

Application:

Sometimes the Lord sends us down the road less traveled, please don’t resist it. The Lord is sovereign over all of His creation. Philip left a revival to go out into a desolate place, the Holy Spirit was at work, he didn’t resist! You may be in a seemingly dead end job or situation. Unless God changes your course, stay the course, you never know what He is up to. Don’t miss your greatest blessings, obey Him. Philip obeyed immediately. In obedience, we become an instrument in the Redeemer’s hands.