February 24, 2019

Revolution Church

**“Is It In You?”**

* **Easter Eggs!**
* **Costa Rica March 1-12**
* **Introduce Jenn Walker to share her testimony**

Acts 8 The Passion Translation (TPT)

Saul Persecutes the Believers

**8**Now, Saul agreed to be an accomplice to Stephen’s stoning and participated in his execution. From that day on, a great persecution of the church in Jerusalem began. All the believers scattered into the countryside of Judea and among the Samaritans, except the apostles who remained behind in Jerusalem. **2**God-fearing men gave Stephen a proper burial and mourned greatly over his death.

**3**Then Saul mercilessly persecuted the church of God, going from house to house into the homes of believers to arrest both men and women and drag them off to prison.

The Gospel Spreads to Samaria

**4**Although the believers were scattered by persecution, they preached the wonderful news of the word of God wherever they went. **5**Philip traveled to a Samaritan cityand preached to them the wonderful news of the Anointed One. **6**The crowds were eager to receivePhilip’s message and were persuaded by the many miracles and wonders he performed.

* Not only were they convinced of the Gospel, they silenced others who preached anything else.

**7**Many demon-possessed people were set free and delivered as evil spirits came out of them with loud screams and shrieks, and many who were lame and paralyzed were also healed.**8**This resulted in an uncontainable joy filling the city!

Simon the Sorcerer Converted

**9**Now, there was a man who lived there who was steeped in sorcery. For some time he had astounded the people of Samaria with his magic, boasting to be someone great.

* Simon boasted that “he was the great god!”

**10**Everyone, from the least to the greatest among them, was dazzled by his sorcery, saying, “This man is the greatest wizard of all! The divine power of God walks among us!” **11**For many years everyone was in awe of him because of his astonishing displays of the magic arts.

**12**But as Philip preached the wonderful news of God’s kingdom realm, and the name of Jesus the Anointed One, many believed his message and were baptized, both men and women. **13**Even Simon believed and was baptized! Wherever Philip went, Simon was right by his side, astounded by all the miracles, signs, and enormous displays of power that he witnessed.

**14**When the apostles in Jerusalem heard that the Samaritans had accepted God’s message of life, they sent Peter and John **15**to pray over them so that they would receive the Holy Spirit.

* They “took hold of Holy Spirit!”

**16**For they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus and were yet to have the Holy Spirit fall upon them. **17**As soon as Peter and John arrived, they laid their hands on the Samaritan believers, one after another, and the Holy Spirit fell and filled each one of them!

**18**When Simon saw how the Holy Spirit was released through the laying on of the apostles’ hands, he approached them and offered them money, **19**saying, “I want this power too. I’m willing to pay you for the anointing that you have, so that I also can lay my hands on everyone to receive the Holy Spirit.”

**20**Peter rebuked him and said, “Your money will go with you to destruction! How could you even think that you could purchase God’s supernatural gift with money? **21**You will never have this gift or take part in this ministry, for your heart is not right with God. **22**Repent this moment for allowing such wickedness to fill you. Plead with the Lord that perhaps he would forgive you the treachery of your heart. **23**For I discern that jealous envy has poisoned you and binds you as a captive to sin.”

**24**Simon begged, “Peter, please pray to God for me. Plead with him so that nothing you just said over me may come to pass!”

Philip and the Ethiopian

**25**After Peter and John had testified and taught the word of God in that city, they returned to Jerusalem, stopping at many Samaritan villages along the way to preach the hope of the gospel.

**26**Then the Lord’s angel said to Philip, “Now go south from Jerusalem on the desert road to Gaza.” **27**He left immediately on his assignment.

Along the way he encountered an Ethiopian *who believed in the God of the Jews*, who was the minister of finance for Candace, queen of Ethiopia. He was on his way home from worshiping God in Jerusalem. **28**As he rode along in his chariot, he was reading from the scroll of Isaiah.

**29**The Holy Spirit said to Philip, “Go and walk alongside the chariot.”

**30**So Philip ran to catch up. As he drew closer he overheard the man reading from the scroll of Isaiah the prophet. Philip asked him, “Sir, do you understand what you’re reading?”

**31**The man answered, “How can I possibly make sense of this without someone explaining it to me?” So he invited Philip up into his chariot to sit with him.

**32**The portion from Isaiah he was reading was this:

He was led away to the slaughter  
    like a lamb to be offered.  
    He was like a lamb that is silent  
    before those who sheared him—  
    he never even opened his mouth.  
**33**In his lowliness justice was stripped away from him.  
    And who could fully express his struggles?  
    For his life was taken from the earth.

**34**The Ethiopian asked Philip, “Please, can you tell me who the prophet is speaking of? Is it himself or another man?”

**35**Philip started with this passage and shared with him the wonderful message of Jesus.

**36**As they were traveling down the road, the man said, “Look, here’s a pool of water. Why don’t I get baptized right now?”

**37**Philip replied, “If you believe with all your heart, I’ll baptize you.”

The man answered, “I believe that Jesus is the Anointed One, the Son of God.”

**38**The Ethiopian stopped his chariot, and they went down into the water and Philip baptized him. **39–40**When they came up out of the water, Philip was suddenly snatched up by the Spirit of the Lord and instantly carried away to the city of Ashdod,where he reappeared, preaching the gospel in that city.

The man never saw Philip again. He returned to Ethiopia full of great joy. Philip, however, traveled on to all of the towns of that region, bringing them the good news, until he arrived at Caesarea.

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In the 80’s Gatorade came out with a marketing slogan where they asked all of us this question: “is it in you?” It was very catchy with strange pictures to follow where the color of the sweat dripping off of the athlete would be the color of the Gatorade the athlete was drinking.

The marketing ad was great! It spread the message that any athlete that wants to hydrate correctly and effectively must drink Gatorade in order to be successful! In order to compete, excel, achieve, and win! Kids all over wanted to drink Gatorade just to see if the color of their sweat would change!

Today, I want to ask you the same question:

“Is It In You?”

In Acts 8, we are reading about Phillip, the evangelist.

There are four different men named Philip mentioned in the Bible.

Phillip was the name of two of King Herod the Great’s sons by different wives ([Luke 3:1](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/Luke%203.1) and [Matthew 14:3](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/Matt%2014.3)).

The other two Philips in the Bible were servants of Christ and instrumental in the early church:

Philip the disciple and apostle of Christ, and **Philip the evangelist.**

Philip, the disciple, was one of John’s disciples. Philip was also with the folks from Galilee (Peter and Andrew). This Philip went and told Nathanael about Jesus and he became a disciple. This Philip also was instrumental in bringing many people to meet Jesus.

Philip ended up going to Turkey as a missionary and ended up being martyred for His faith.

Now for “Philip the evangelist” or “Philip the deacon.”

It is often assumed that this Philip was one of the seventy-two men whom Jesus sent out in [Luke 10:1](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/Luke%2010.1).

We do know that Philip was one of the original seven deacons selected to serve in the Jerusalem church ([Acts 6:5](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/Acts%206.5)).

Philip had a heart for evangelism, and, when the “great persecution” arose in [Acts 8:1](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/Acts%208.1), Philip left Jerusalem to become an evangelist in Samaria ([Acts 8:5–12](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/Acts%208.5%E2%80%9312)).

After the church in Samaria was started, Philip was used by the Holy Spirit to bring the gospel to an Ethiopian eunuch, a member of the court of Candace, the Ethiopian queen.

Philip found the eunuch sitting in his chariot, reading Isaiah and trying to make sense of the prophet’s words.

Philip offered to explain, and the eunuch invited him to come up and sit with him. In the end, the eunuch was saved and baptized ([Acts 8:26–39](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/Acts%208.26%E2%80%9339)).

Immediately following the baptism, the Spirit of the Lord carried Philip away to Azotus, where he continued to preach the gospel in the towns from there to Caesarea ([Acts 8:40](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/Acts%208.40)).

* Philip was a servant
* Philip looked for thirsty people
* Philip loved to share the Gospel

Philip was able to move in great power because he was filled with the Holy Spirit, but most importantly, he was one who “took hold” of the Holy Spirit!

I have to ask you again, **“Is It In You?”**

Do not ask the Holy Spirt to take hold of you, consider that the Holy Spirit is saying to you, ***“take hold of me!”***

Acts 8:17 - As soon as Peter and John arrived, they laid their hands on the Samaritan believers, one after another, and the Holy Spirit fell and filled each one of them!

I want to lay hands on anyone today who wants to be filled with the Holy Spirit today!