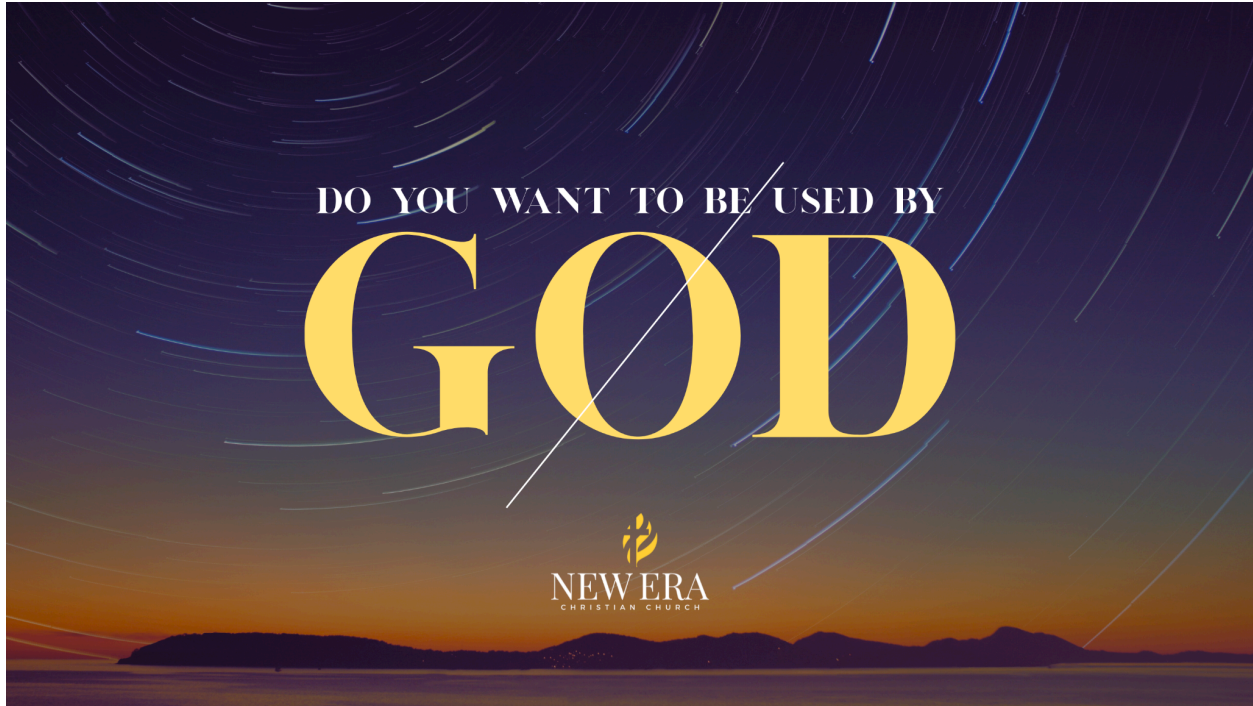




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Introduction

Purpose of this teaching – To help Christians to share their faith with others.

Our ability or desire to tell others about Jesus may be hampered by shyness, fear of rejection, inability to explain the gospel, little knowledge of the Bible, a small faith, or other reasons. Yet we know we are called to share the gospel with others and make disciples of Jesus (**Matthew 28:19–20**). How can we overcome our fears and witness more boldly?

¹⁹Therefore **go** and **make disciples** of all nations, **baptizing them** in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰and **teaching them** to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely, **I am with you always**, to the very end of the age.”

- One thing we can do is pray for ourselves, and ask others to pray for us, to ask that God will help us overcome fear and give us courage as well as wisdom in how to best witness. This can help prepare us to witness.

1. Do you want to be used by God?

Every Christian is responsible to live a life that glorifies God ([1 Corinthians 10:31](#)) and to be a true ambassador ([2 Corinthians 5:20](#)) for Him. Most Christians want to be used of God. For them it is not enough just to know they are on the Christian pathway, they want to be **faithful** and **effective**. The question is: **How? Where do we start? What is involved?**

[\(1 Corinthians 10:31\)](#) So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, **do it all for the glory of God.**

[\(2 Corinthians 5:20\)](#) **We are therefore Christ's ambassadors**, as though God were making his appeal through us. We **implore** you on **Christ's behalf**: Be reconciled to God.

We will explore some of the **key principles to effective Christian witness/ service**. The first answer can be found by looking at the life of Philip, who introduced the Ethiopian official to Jesus Christ in ([Acts 8:26–38](#)). In this passage we can see **five important principles**:

Principle- an **operational truth or guideline** for our daily living.

(Acts 8:26–38) Philip and the Ethiopian

²⁶ Now an *angel of the Lord said to Philip*, “Go south to the road—the desert road—that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.” ²⁷ *So he started out*, and on his way he met an Ethiopian eunuch, *an important official in charge of all the treasury of the Kandake* (which means “queen of the Ethiopians”). *This man had gone to Jerusalem to worship,* ²⁸ and on his way, home was *sitting in his chariot reading the Book of Isaiah the prophet.* ²⁹ The Spirit told Philip, “Go to that chariot and stay near it.”

³⁰ Then Philip ran up to the chariot and heard the man reading Isaiah the prophet. “*Do you understand what you are reading?*” Philip asked.

³¹ “*How can I,*” he said, “*unless someone explains it to me?*” So, he invited Philip to come up and sit with him.

³² This is the passage of Scripture the eunuch was reading:

“He was led like a sheep to the slaughter,
and as a lamb before its shearer is silent,
so, he did not open his mouth.

³³ In his humiliation he was deprived of justice.

Who can speak of his descendants?

For his life was taken from the earth.”

³⁴ The eunuch asked Philip, “Tell me, please, who is the prophet talking about, himself or someone else?” ³⁵ *Then Philip began with that very passage of Scripture and told him the good news about Jesus.*

³⁶ As they traveled along the road, they came to some water and the eunuch said, “Look, here is water. *What can stand in the way of my being baptized?*” ^[37] ³⁸ And he gave orders to stop the chariot. *Then both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water and Philip baptized him.*

2. What can we learn from Phillip?

First, God **SOVEREIGNLY** worked out all the details involved in Philip's effective witness to the Ethiopian. He will do the same for you.

Arise, and go toward the south:

- If one heard the call to leave such a blessed, fruitful ministry, **one likely would think it was the devil speaking** and not the Lord. One might think, “**Not now**” or “**Not me**” or “**Not there.**”

This is desert: **Leaving fruitful ministry to go to a desert is foolish from man’s perspective**, but wise if directed by God.

- What could be more foolish than to leave a place of prospering ministry and go to a desert road? (**Leaving St. John and go to Parkland**)

3. Do you feel you have to work out the details as you witness to others?

- What to say ?
- How to say it?
- Will they receive it?

4. What did Phillip do?

- Philip submitted to God's plan.

Second, Philip's **LIFE** witnessed to Jesus Christ. He was chosen as a worker in the early church because of his character (**Acts 6:3-5**). A good life not only glorifies God but is a powerful witness to the world.

Our lives should demonstrate that we know Him.

(**Acts 6:3-5**) Brothers and sisters, choose seven men from among you who are known to be full of the Spirit and wisdom. We will turn this responsibility over to them ⁴ and will give our attention to prayer and the ministry of the word.”

⁵ This proposal pleased the whole group. They chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit; also, **Philip**, Procorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolas from Antioch, a convert to Judaism.

- Who is your **life a witness** for?
- How is your **Character?** (It really matters)
- What do you **demonstrate** in your life that you know him?

Third, we find the **HOLY SPIRIT** involved in Philip's life and ministry. “The Spirit told Philip, go to that chariot and stay near it (**Acts 8:29**). **The Holy Spirit is the One who makes our lives attractive** (**Galatians 5:22-23**).

- **He is our Teacher and Guide. He gives us boldness and courage to witness. Our responsibility is to be yielded** fully to all the wonderful resources of the Holy Spirit.

- Philip was led to someone already prepared.

(Acts 8:29) The Spirit told Philip, “Go to that chariot and stay near it.

(Galatians 5:22-23) But the fruit of the Spirit is **love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,** ²³ **gentleness** and **self-control**. Against such things there is no law.

- Is he your teacher?
- Do you have **boldness and courage** to witness to others?
- Have you **yielded your life to the holy spirit**?
- Being filled with the Spirit mean the more control we give the spirit over our lives.

Fourth, you will note the important part the **SCRIPTURES** play in telling another person about Jesus Christ. The Ethiopian was reading (**Isaiah 53**) and asked Philip to explain the passage. Philip took the same passage, which deals prophetically with the crucifixion, and “told him the good news about Jesus” (**Acts 8:35**). Philip knew the Scriptures and was prepared to explain the good news of the Gospel.

- If we are going to be effective Christians, we too must gain a working knowledge of the Scriptures to help others.

(Acts 8:35) *Then Philip began with that very passage of Scripture and **told him the good news about Jesus.***

- The Ethiopian was hungry for God’s Word.
- Do you know the scriptures?
- If yes, **how do you learn more and if not**, how do you begin?
- We must **gain a working knowledge of the Scriptures** to help others.

Fifth, the Bible is a record of God working mightily in and through the lives of **ordinary people**. Our responsibility is to step out in **FAITH** and trust God to use us.

5. Do you want to be used by God?

Conclusion:

Many Christians successfully share the gospel by developing a brief story of how they came to a saving knowledge of Jesus and how He has transformed their life. Memorize a few key verses about the gospel and bookmark others. While your personal testimony may be helpful, the gospel—the truth of Jesus—is ultimately what needs to be shared. So, make sure that your story is primarily about Jesus and communicates His message of salvation. Your preparation will bless your own relationship with Christ and allow you to plant some seeds in others so that the Holy Spirit can do His work ([John 3:8](#)).

Remember, that as Jesus gave us the Great Commission to make disciples, He promised us His presence: "I am with you always" ([Matthew 28:20](#)). So do not fear, but trust in He who has saved you and brought you from death to life ([John 5:24](#)).

Scriptures

[\(1 Peter 3:15\)](#) But in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect,

[\(Mark 16:15-16\)](#) And he said to them, "Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to the whole creation. Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned."

[\(Colossians 4:6\)](#) Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer each person.

(Matthew 5:16) In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.

(Romans 1:16) For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.

(Matthew 28:18-20) And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 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, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

(Acts 1:8) 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.