



Intro to Philip the Evangelist

Sunday, April 15, 2018

Pastor Don Denyes

Sometimes the idea of being filled with the Holy Spirit can become an overly mystical concept or experience in practice. It shouldn't be that way, though. In the example of Philip the Evangelist, who was chosen by the first congregation to be a deacon, we have someone who exemplifies what it means to be Spirit-filled. He demonstrated that being filled by the Spirit means letting the word of God control you. He acted simply in accordance with what the Holy Spirit wanted because He acted in accordance with Scripture.

Philip provides us at least three core ideas about what it means to be Spirit-filled. First, he was a servant. The Holy Spirit enables us to become servants in the same way that Christ was a servant. The Spirit removes our focus from ourselves and allows us to gaze upward and see the beauty of Christ and the needs of others. As we see those needs, both material and spiritual, we will minister better to them. In the case of Philip, he ministered to both physical needs (Acts 6) as well as spiritual needs, both in the church and outside (Acts 8, 21).

Context

The command to be filled with the Spirit is a command that dominates much of what remains of the book of Ephesians. Although Paul still has a whole chapter and a half to go, he tells the people to be Spirit-filled in a way that is reflected in our speech and our actions. His immediate subject will be wives and husbands, but the principles of being Spirit-filled apply to every vocation or activity—whether the social ones like marriage, or whatever else we might set our minds to do.

Read and Reflect *(Use this section to write down any thoughts you had on the sermon. Make sure to note any questions you had about something in the passage or in the sermon.)*

“Philip: A Spirit-Filled Life”

Read Acts 6:1-7; 8:4-13; 8:26-40; 21:7-9

Philip demonstrated the Spirit-filled life by being a...

I. Deacon/Servant (Acts 6)

II. Evangelist (Acts 8)

III. Friend (Acts 21)

Discuss

- 1) As Pastor Don said, we ought to be filled with the Holy Spirit in every area of our lives (Eph. 5:18). In what area of your life are you least inclined to be consciously filled with the Spirit?

- 2) What are some ways you have seen God grow you in being more Spirit-filled (under the control of the Spirit/word of God) in the past year or so?

- 3) What is one specific way you can grow in serving others within the church? This might be taking on a new responsibility or just having a renewed attitude about a way you're already serving.

- 4) A Spirit-filled person wants to talk about Jesus with non-Christians (wants to be an evangelist). How would you rate your level of desire to share Christ with non-Christians in your life? And why?

- 5) How can you be more of a friend to people in need within the church? Philip recognized Paul's need and showed him hospitality. How can you be more like that?