

The Thoroughly Furnished Minister

Associate Minister's Class

8-30-14

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INTRODUCTION: Effective ministry requires the right tools and techniques, some of which we have studied during our last couple of sessions together. There is a mandate for preachers, teachers and evangelist do be able to interpret Scripture, apply Scripture, and understand the implications of obeying (or disobeying) God's Word. We are required by God to be diligent to "rightly divide" the Word, as we carry out our ministry.

However, there is another aspect to ministry that must be present, if a minister of the Gospel is to be truly effective – it is that they be *Spirit-led*. If a minister is a highly gifted theologian – if they are a highly trained Bible scholar – if they are well versed in the science of Bible interpretation, and they lack a deep spiritual connection with God, they will never be successful in ministry.

Being Spirit-led, is a learned skill. The more we practice it, the better we become – the easier it is to recognize whether the unction we are feeling, is in fact, from the Holy Spirit.

Text: Acts 8:26-30a, Part 1

The Spirit-Led Minister

- I. Introduction
 - a. The Holy Spirit was the author and power source of Philip's entire ministry.
 - b. Philip's obedience to the Holy Spirit opened the door for a great work.
 - c. Great ministry is accomplished - not solely through Biblical knowledge – but by sound doctrine, in combination with a life energized by the power of the Holy Spirit.

- II. Divine Intervention (v. 26)
 - a. God commissions those, who will obey. Philip has shown himself willing to serve the cause of Christ whenever, and in whatever way God calls.
 - b. Obedient servants are not intimidated by the call.

- III. Divine Obedience (v. 27a)

- IV. Divine Opportunity (v. 27b-28)
 - a. God opens doors of opportunity for ministers, who will hear and heed His voice.
 - b. God's work is not restricted to *the crowd* (Samaria), but God seeks servants, who will minister to *the one* (the Ethiopian).
 - c. The Holy Spirit leads us to minister to those, who sometimes seem the most unlikely to have a desire for God. Yet, this is where God has opened the door of ministry.

- V. Divine Unction (v. 29)
 - a. Our natural inclination is to avoid unfamiliar settings, and people.
 - b. God desires ALL to be saved.
 - c. We never know the great and mighty things that will come out of our obedience to the Spirit.

- VI. Divine Surprises (v. 30a)
 - a. The Holy Spirit leads obedient ministers into unexpected wonders.
 - b. The Holy Spirit goes before obedient ministers, to pave the way for ministry.

Text: Acts 8:30b-38, Part 2
The Spirit-Equipped Minister

- I. Equipped for Ministry (v. 30b)
 - a. Philip was confident in ministry.
 - b. Philip's confidence stemmed from his knowledge of the Scripture.
 - c. God called ministers to greater works, when they are prepared for service.

- II. *The Field is White* (v. 31)
 - a. The world is filled with people hungry for truth.
 - b. The darker our culture becomes, the greater the opportunity for the light of the Gospel.
 - c. Minister's must be prepared to engage the culture with truth, not religion.

- III. Rightly Diving the Word (v. 32-34)
 - a. The world is biblically illiterate – ministers of the Gospel must not be.
 - b. Incorrect interpretation can have eternally negative consequences.

- IV. Practical Exercise
 - a. Identification of the Text
 - b. Identify the Context of the Text
 - c. Mechanical Layout of the Text

- V. Right Interpretation Produces Right Application (v. 34)

- VI. Right Interpretation Produces Right Practice (v. 36-38)
 - a. The church will be out of order, without the right understanding of Scripture.
 - b. Without correct biblical teaching, the church will not know the difference between *the commands of God, and the traditions of man.*