

Everyday FAITH Family Page

3 in 1: Discovering Our Triune God

Key Point

The Holy Spirit led Philip to extend God's Church by helping the Ethiopian understand God's Word and then by baptizing him. The Holy Spirit extends God's Church through pastors and other church workers and also through me.

Bible Words

As the Father has sent Me, even so I am sending you.
John 20:21

Law/Gospel

Apart from faith in Christ, my sinful mind is clouded and cannot understand the Word of God. **The Holy Spirit works through God's Word, proclaimed by pastors and shared by other believers, including me, to bring people to faith in Jesus as Savior.**

The Ethiopian Church

- Sixty percent of people in Ethiopia are Christians today.
- Ethiopia was the first country to make Christianity their state religion in the fourth century.
- Church history says the apostle Matthew preached the Gospel in Ethiopia after preaching in Judea.

SOURCES: Britannica.com, www.linkethiopia.org, and mcah.columbia.edu

The Spirit Makes the Church Grow: Philip and the Ethiopian Acts 8:26–39

Philip became one of seven deacons prayerfully chosen to serve food to the poor and widows. The Church chose these deacons because the apostles could not do all the work themselves. However, their work did not stop with serving meals. Some also testified about Jesus in the many synagogues in Jerusalem (Acts 6:9).

Philip traveled to Samaria and told these people about Jesus' life, death, and resurrection. Many believed and followed Jesus.

Later, an angel of the Lord appeared to Philip and told him to go south on the road from Jerusalem to Gaza. The Holy Spirit led Philip to a man riding in a chariot. This man, Ethiopian court official for the queen of Ethiopia, was a God-believer on his way home from worshipping in Jerusalem.

The Ethiopian was reading, but did not understand, a scroll of Isaiah 53, the prophecy of the Suffering Servant that so aptly points to Jesus. The Spirit gave Philip wisdom to understand and explain the Scripture to the man.

Philip also likely told the Ethiopian about the gifts of forgiveness, life, and salvation that believers in Jesus receive in Holy Baptism because the man asked to be baptized. Through His Word and Baptism, the Holy Spirit brought the Ethiopian to faith. Philip gladly baptized him.

Go and Make Disciples

Jesus commanded His disciples to "Go therefore and make disciples" (Matthew 28:19). Today, missionaries travel the world to share the Gospel of Christ. Pastors preach His Word and administer the Sacraments. Teachers, deaconesses, and directors of Christian education, music, family life, and evangelism serve His Church in many ways.

Every Christian shares the Good News of Jesus as we live our vocations in life—such as parent, spouse, friend, and servant of Christ.

We can trust the Holy Spirit always to be with us and to give us opportunities to share the love of God in Christ.

Prayer

Dear Holy Spirit, help us to proclaim God's Word boldly, according to Your will. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

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