



# Everyday FAITH Family Page

## New Testament 5

### Law/Gospel

Trusting in my sinful reason, I cannot understand the need for or the work of Christ. **God grants me faith through His Word and Sacrament so that I trust in His Son, Jesus, as my Savior.**

### Bible Words

So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.

Romans 10:17

### Fun Facts

- The Ethiopian, a Gentile, believed in the God of Israel, and probably had converted to Judaism.
- Only the most wealthy people could afford a handwritten scroll of Scripture and could travel by chariot with drivers.
- Candace was not a personal name, but a title for African queens, similar to Pharaoh for kings.
- In ancient times, people almost always read aloud, as trained. Ancient books were often difficult to read. For example, ancient Greek used uppercase letters with some punctuation marks but no spaces.

## Philip and the Ethiopian

Acts 8:26–40

Stephen's death at the hands of the Jewish religious leaders began a great persecution of the Church in Jerusalem. A Pharisee named Saul captured many men and women and took them to prison. As a result, most fled the city; only the apostles stayed in Jerusalem (Acts 8:1–3).

The scattered Christians took God's Word throughout Judea and Samaria. Philip, one of the other men chosen to serve food with Stephen, went to Samaria, preached about Christ, and healed and baptized many.

When an angel of the Lord told Philip to go south to the road from Jerusalem to Gaza, he obeyed. There, he saw an Ethiopian official in charge of the treasury of Candace, queen of the Ethiopians. Apparently riding in a moving chariot, the man was reading Isaiah 53.

Prompted by the Holy Spirit, Philip ran to the Ethiopian and asked if he understood what he read. The man said no and invited Philip into the chariot. Philip explained Isaiah's extraordinary prophecies and how Jesus fulfilled them by suffering and dying for our sins and rising from the dead, defeating the power of sin, death, and the devil.

After instruction, the Ethiopian asked to be baptized. Stopping, Philip baptized him, but when they came out of the water, the Holy Spirit carried Philip away (v. 39). The Ethiopian did not see Philip again and continued his travels. Philip appeared in Azotus on the Mediterranean Coast and preached from there north to Caesarea.

Just a few years after Jesus ascended, the Holy Spirit led the Church to smash social barriers to teach the Gospel of Christ to Gentiles (non-Jews) and Samaritans (a part-Jewish splinter group with its own religious system). The Holy Spirit gave them faith the way He still does, through His Word and Sacraments. Through these, the Holy Spirit calls, gathers, enlightens, sanctifies, and keeps us in the one true faith in Jesus.

### Prayer

*Dear Lord, by Your Word and Sacraments, keep us faithful to You and Your Word. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.*

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