

## 02.03.21 – A Weekly Word for Covenant Church

**Title:** “Phillip Hears and Heeds”

**Scripture Reading:** [Acts 8:26-40](#)

**Reflection:** Rev. George Vink

Upon completing a task working together, I’ve at times suggested, *“And now, like the Ethiopian eunuch, go on your way rejoicing!”* Most often, a strange and inquisitive look comes over their faces. Their unfamiliarity with or not recalling today’s reading explains their odd look. I then may use the opportunity to share, briefly of course, the wonderful story of God’s reaching the Ethiopian traveler who came to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ through Philip’s obedient ministry. The uniqueness of the eunuch might follow.

In the book of Acts where Covenant members have been journeying, we sense the heartbeat of the early church, its excitement, and its growth. Repeatedly we read about the new believers seeking God’s guidance and responding with enviable and faithful obedience. It’s clear in today’s opening verse. “Now an angel of the Lord said to Philip, ‘Go south to the road...’” and Philip starts out. It doesn’t matter that it’s on an out-of-the-way, dusty, dry, desert, and probably also deserted road.

Blessings follow obedience. You may call it a “divine appointment” or a miracle, but it’s really just Christ’s way. So, when the Spirit says, “Go...,” we pack our bags and head out. Pastor Bonhoefer put it this way, “Only he who believes obeys, and only he who obeys believes.” True whether you’re a “he” or a “she!”

Whether that same day or later, Philip meets an Ethiopian, a servant of the queen, on the way home. Philip hears him reading aloud, a common practice. Opening the conversation, Philip asks, “Do you understand what you are reading?” The reader responded with, “How can I, unless someone explains it to me?” and invited Philip to sit with him.

God directed Philip to explain Isaiah’s words to a steward serving at the Ethiopian Court. We can understand the feeling of frustration when the meaning of a Bible passage escapes us. We can also celebrate that God used Philip’s obedience, his heeding the Spirit’s nudging and heading out in obedience. We enjoy Philip’s casually opening the conversation and seizing the opportunity to tell “the good news about Jesus.” Ethiopia’s history discloses the results.

Challenged, let’s ask, “Am I open to seizing similar opportunities?” Often enough it’s a matter of hearing and heeding the Spirit’s promptings. Philip did! Will you?

### **Prayer:**

Opener of doors, help us see when a door is locked or when it is open to sharing about our Savior. Open our hearts to see our neighbors’ needs and seize the presented opportunities for sharing. Help us to listen. Empower us to get going! We desire to do so in Jesus’ name. Amen.

### **Action Item for the Day/Week:**

Ask yourself, "Have I ever had the opportunity to explain a scripture passage to someone?" How did it make me feel? Ask yourself again, "Am I open to hearing The Spirit's nudging? And, should I hear its gentle whisper, am I ready to obey?" Why wouldn't I? Really!

**Songs for today:**

[Spirit of the Living God, Fall Afresh on Me](#)

[I Love to Tell the Story](#)

[I Love to Tell the Story](#)