

“Investigating the Case for Christ”

Acts 8:26-39

Spiritually stuck.

As for Philip, an angel of the Lord said to him, “Go south down the desert road that runs from Jerusalem to Gaza.” So he started out, and he met the treasurer of Ethiopia, a eunuch of great authority under the Kandake, the queen of Ethiopia. The eunuch had gone to Jerusalem to worship, and he was now returning. Seated in his carriage, he was reading aloud from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

The Holy Spirit said to Philip, “Go over and walk along beside the carriage.”

Philip ran over and heard the man reading from the prophet Isaiah. Philip asked, “Do you understand what you are reading?”

The man replied, “How can I, unless someone instructs me?” And he urged Philip to come up into the carriage and sit with him.

Acts 8:26-31 (NLT)

Spiritual sticking points:

I can't believe.

They told him, “We have seen the Lord!”

But he replied, “I won't believe it unless I see the nail wounds in his hands, put my fingers into them, and place my hand into the wound in his side.”

John 20:25 (NLT)

If you look for me wholeheartedly, you will find me.

Jeremiah 29:13 (NLT)

I don't want to believe.

And the judgment is based on this fact: God's light came into the world, but people loved the darkness more than the light, for their actions were evil.

John 3:19 (NLT)

I don't know what to believe.

The passage of Scripture he had been reading was this:

“He was led like a sheep to the slaughter.

And as a lamb is silent before the shearers, he did not open his mouth.

He was humiliated and received no justice.

Who can speak of his descendants?

For his life was taken from the earth.”

The eunuch asked Philip, “Tell me, was the prophet talking about himself or someone else?” So beginning with this same Scripture, Philip told him the Good News about Jesus.

Acts 8:32-35 (NLT)

For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord.

Romans 6:23 (NLT)

I do believe; Isn't that enough?

You say you have faith, for you believe that there is one God.

Good for you! Even the demons believe this, and they tremble in terror.

James 2:19 (NLT)

But to all who believed him and accepted him, he gave the right to become children of God.

John 1:12 (NLT)

SO WHAT?

As they rode along, they came to some water, and the eunuch said, “Look! There's some water! Why can't I be baptized?” He ordered the carriage to stop, and they went down into the water, and Philip baptized him.

When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away. The eunuch never saw him again but went on his way rejoicing.

Acts 8:36-39 (NLT)

To get unstuck, take the next step.

Growth Group Questions

(Questions and Scriptures for further study)

1. How has your life changed since the internet took over our lives?

What do you miss the most? What don't you miss at all?

2. What issue, objection, question, or concern got you stuck on your journey of faith at one time?

If you overcame that, How did you get unstuck?

3. Re-read Acts 8:26-31. What parts of the bible have you found hard to understand?

Who (if anyone) helped you understand it? (and how?)

4. Re-read John 3:19. What are some specific reasons people don't want to believe and dismiss a relationship with God?

5. Who in your life is at a spiritual sticking point right now, and which one?

How can you meet them there and share the spiritual journey with them?

6. Who could you invite to the community Easter Egg hunt, EASTER service, or maybe take to the movie "Case for Christ"?

7. Pray for people by name who are spiritually stuck right now. Ask God to show himself in their life.