# Evangelism and the Holy Spirit (Part 4)

**The Holy Spirit gives direction**

**Verse**: Acts 8:26-40; Act 10:1-48; Acts 13:1-5; Acts 20:17-25; Acts 21:7-11

**Objective**: To encourage believers to be directed by the Holy Spirit more in what they do in sharing their faith.

**Possible video to include:** [alltogether.co.nz/firestarters](https://alltogether.co.nz/firestarters/) (try Matts or Chris’ story)

**Introduction**: The Holy Spirit will give us the steps to take.

1. In getting to the right person: Acts 8:26-40

* Philip had been enjoying a powerful move of God in Samaria recorded in Acts 8:4-8 where crowds had been hearing him preach and had witnessed the signs and wonders that followed. People had been delivered from demons and the sick healed, resulting in much joy in that city. It was an explosive city-wide move of God. But, God sends Philip away from this spiritual downpour to a road in the middle of the desert.
* Philip had to let go of what he knew to embrace what God was telling him to do. He did not know why God had sent him into the middle of no-where, but he obeyed.
* Church Father St. Irenaeus of Lyons wrote in 180 AD regarding the Ethiopian, “This man (Simeon Bachos the Eunuch) was also sent into the regions of Ethiopia, to preach what he himself believed…” In Samaria Philip launches a move of God. In the dusty deserted road that runs from Jerusalem to Gaza Philips launches a man of God.
* Philip does this because whilst being in the right place, he comes across the right person, and God gives a simple instruction. “Go over and join that chariot.” Be ready for the simplest directions and promptings of the Holy Spirit. Little personal steps can lead to big kingdom steps

2. In getting us to the right place: Acts 10:1-48

* This chapter is filled with supernatural encounter. Cornelius encounters God through a vision of an angel who gives clear instruction to him. Peter encounters a new revelation through a trance and a clear direction from a voice and then backed up by the Spirit speaking direct to him in verse 19. We are not told how the Holy Spirit spoke to him, but that He did. Finally we see the house full of seekers encounter the Holy Spirit in a supernatural way.
* Peter was given simple instructions, when obeyed, would unlock a significant harvest.
* The right people in the right places sharing the right stuff will achieve the right ends!

3. In sending us out: Acts 13:1-5

* A group of Christian leaders were together, ministering to the Lord in worship and fasting. As they drew near to Him, he spoke by the Holy Spirit, in such a way, that they all knew the instruction was from him.
* Clear instruction was “Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.”
* The fellow believers then fasted and prayed and laid hands on Barnabas and Saul and sent them off.
* Because of the sending and the going a mammoth harvest was unlocked with new churches being planted and new ministries being launched.

**Application**: There are people to meet and places to go for every believer. We have been commissioned by God in Matthew 21:18-20 and have been empowered by the Holy Spirit to be witnesses everywhere and anywhere he might lead us. Has the Lord been speaking to you about someone he wants you to speak to or some where he is calling you to go to. All are called to go and called to share. The only question is ,go to who and where? Let the Holy Spirit do that for you. You do not need detail. You only need directions. Trust His direction and step out into your divine appointments.

The Gospel is unchanging. Bringing God to people and people to God is as varied as every individual. Let the Holy Spirit have his way as your helper in not only knowing how to share the gospel with the person you are sharing with, but also knowing how to bring God into the encounter. For Philip, he asked a great question. For Peter, he stepped out of his comfort zone. For the Antioch leaders, they were surrendered to God's direction as they gathered. They were prepared to release their best as a direct result and Barnabas and Saul stepped into a monumental harvest.

**Conclusion**: Let us all be a listening, obedient, sending and going people! There are people to meet and places to go for every believer. We have been commissioned by God in Matthew 21:18-20 and have been empowered by the Holy Spirit to be witnesses everywhere and anywhere he might lead us. Has the Lord been speaking to you about someone he wants you to speak to or some where he is calling you to go to. All are called to go and called to share. The only question is go to who and where? Let the Holy Spirit do that for you. You do not need detail. You only need directions. Trust His direction and step out into your divine appointments.

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Equipping Study

**Conversation starter:** Has anyone ever been lost without a map (or access to google-maps)? What happened?

**Revision**: (15 mins)

* What were the ‘three main points from Sunday’s sermon?
* Which point spoke most to you and why?
* Would someone like to share a testimony of God leading you in sharing your faith?

**Scripture**: (15mins) Choose one or all of the passages below:

Read Acts 8:26-40

* What was Philip told and how was he told it?
* What did Philip have to do?
* What was needed to help the Ethiopian come to faith?

Read Acts 10:1-48

* How was God speaking to people in this passage?
* In verse 19 the Spirit gives very clear instruction. What was Peter told?
* What did the Holy Spirit do as a direct result Peter's obedience?

Read Acts 13:1-5

* What were the believers doing when the Holy Spirit spoke and how do you think He spoke?
* What did the Holy Spirit say?
* What did they all do?

**Prayer**: (20mins) Pray for one another for more discernment in listening to the Holy Spirit. Gather around each other one at a time and pray as God would lead.

**Homework** [Very important] (5mins) Encourage everyone to give time each day for the Holy Spirit to speak to you and to direct you in who you are to share with and what you are to share or do.