

Acts 8:26-9:9 “Two Opposites Are Attracted!” May 2, 2021

[#1] Philip was a servant - a deacon's heart. That's the _____ Jesus' longs for and loves!

[#2] Real enthusiasm is being _____ of God. *Philip is filled up with the Holy Spirit!* (Luke 15:4-7)

[#3] Salvation is by faith, and that belief must come from your _____. (Heb. 11:6, 1 Thess. 4:16-18)

[#4] Life is a thrill ride when we follow Jesus, serve and love others, and dare to desire ' _____ ' to share our faith!

[#5] Christianity isn't a moral code, or a system of beliefs, or religious rituals – Christianity is _____ “the Way”!

Jesus declared “I am THE WAY, THE TRUTH, and THE LIFE. No one comes to the Father except through Me.” (John 14:6)

[#6] Saul realizes if Jesus rose from the dead it means He's _____ of life.

Paul's testimony...

1 Timothy 1:13–16 (NLT)

¹³ ...I used to blaspheme the name of Christ. In my insolence, I persecuted his people. But God had mercy on me because I did it in ignorance and unbelief.

¹⁴ Oh, how generous and gracious our Lord was! He filled me with the faith and love that come from Christ Jesus.

¹⁵ This is a trustworthy saying ... “Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners”—and I am the worst of them all.

¹⁶ But God had mercy on me so that Christ Jesus could use me as a prime example of his great patience with even the worst sinners. Then others will realize that they, too, can believe in him and receive eternal life.

Acts 8:26-9:9 “Two Opposites Are Attracted!” May 2, 2021

[#1] Philip was a servant - a deacon's heart. That's the Heart Jesus' longs for and loves!

[#2] Real enthusiasm is being Full of God. *Philip is filled up with the Holy Spirit!* (Luke 15:4-7)

[#3] Salvation is by faith, and that belief must come from your Heart. (Heb. 11:6, 1 Thess. 4:16-18)

[#4] Life is a thrill ride when we follow Jesus, serve and love others, and dare to desire ' Divine Appointments ' to share our faith!

[#5] Christianity isn't a moral code, or a system of beliefs, or religious rituals – Christianity is Jesus “the Way”!

Jesus declared “I am THE WAY, THE TRUTH, and THE LIFE. No one comes to the Father except through Me.” (John 14:6)

[#6] Saul realizes if Jesus rose from the dead it means He's Lord of life.

Paul's testimony...

1 Timothy 1:13–16 (NLT)

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Life Group Homework
For the week of May 2, 2021

Revelation 1:12-18 - "[12] Then I turned to see the voice that spoke with me. And having turned I saw seven golden lampstands, [13] and in the midst of the seven lampstands One like the Son of Man, clothed with a garment down to the feet and girded about the chest with a golden band. [14] His head and hair were white like wool, as white as snow, and His eyes like a flame of fire; [15] His feet were like fine brass, as if refined in a furnace, and His voice as the sound of many waters; [16] He had in His right hand seven stars, out of His mouth went a sharp two-edged sword, and His countenance was like the sun shining in its strength. [17] And when I saw Him, I fell at His feet as dead. But He laid His right hand on me, saying to me, "Do not be afraid; I am the First and the Last. [18] "I am He who lives, and was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore. Amen. And I have the keys of Hades and of Death."

If you were in John's shoes, seeing the vision above with your own eyes, how would you respond? How would this vision affect your day to day life?

TAKING IT HOME

- 7) Looking back at this week's teaching and homework, what is most important for you to remember and why?

PRAYER REQUESTS

- ▶
- ▶
- ▶

GETTING TO KNOW YOU

- 1) When you think of the words "evangelism" or "witnessing," what words, images or stories come to mind?
- 2) God told Philip to leave the thriving ministry among the Samaritans, go to the desert, and to catch up to the chariot. Then, Philip began a conversation with the man, and shared the gospel with him. Which of these steps would be most difficult for you, and why?

REVIEW

- 3) Looking back at your notes, what stood out to you from this week's message? (Favorite point? Questions? etc..)

DIGGING DEEPER

- 4) Saul, who is eventually called Paul, shares his testimony several times in the New Testament. Read Paul's testimony below.

Acts 26:5, 9-20 - "[5] "They knew me from the first, if they were willing to testify, that according to the strictest sect of our religion I lived a Pharisee. ... [9] "Indeed, I myself thought I must do many things contrary to the name of Jesus

of Nazareth. [10] "This I also did in Jerusalem, and many of the saints I shut up in prison, having received authority from the chief priests; and when they were put to death, I cast my vote against them. [11] "And I punished them often in every synagogue and compelled them to blaspheme; and being exceedingly enraged against them, I persecuted them even to foreign cities. [12] "While thus occupied, as I journeyed to Damascus with authority and commission from the chief priests, [13] "at midday, O king, along the road I saw a light from heaven, brighter than the sun, shining around me and those who journeyed with me. [14] "And when we all had fallen to the ground, I heard a voice speaking to me and saying in the Hebrew language, 'Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me? It is hard for you to kick against the goads.' [15] "So I said, 'Who are You, Lord?' And He said, 'I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. [16] 'But rise and stand on your feet; for I have appeared to you for this purpose, to make you a minister and a witness both of the things which you have seen and of the things which I will yet reveal to you. [17] 'I will deliver you from the Jewish people, as well as from the Gentiles, to whom I now send you, [18] 'to open their eyes, in order to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who are sanctified by faith in Me.' [19] "Therefore, King Agrippa, I was not disobedient to the heavenly vision, [20] "but declared first to those in Damascus and in Jerusalem, and throughout all the region of Judea, and then to the Gentiles, that they should repent, turn to God, and do works befitting repentance."

What stands out to you from Paul's testimony?

Paul's desire was for his audience, King Agrippa, to believe in Jesus. Why do you think Paul used his personal testimony as part of his witness?

A Christian testimony essentially tells who we **were**, who we **are** now, and how **Jesus** met and changed us! If you had one minute to share your personal testimony to a friend, what would you say?

- 5) This week we saw Philip share the gospel with the Ethiopian Eunuch. Philip asked the man what he was reading, and if he understood it. Then, from that passage the man was reading, Philip explained the truth about Jesus. Rather than Philip starting with what **he** knew, he started **where the man was at** in his own understanding. What do you think this looks like for us, as we seek opportunities to share with others?

2 Corinthians 3:18 - "[18] But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord."

- 6) The verse above reminds us that the more we behold God and His glory, the more we become like Him. What stands out to you from the following passage?