

# **The Divine Word**

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## I. Introduction.

- A. Text: Acts 8:25-40.
- B. Three symbols of the Spirit: wind, fire, and various languages.
  - 1. Tongues symbolize the proclamation of the truth.
  - 2. Fire depicts the purifying work of the Spirit.
  - 3. Wind depicts the Spirit in His sovereignty over the church.

## II. The normal activity of a Christian.

- A. They testified. This means they shared what they experienced.
- B. They spoke the Word of the Lord—they prophesied.
- C. They evangelized.
- D. These are normal activities but they are empowered by the Spirit.

## III. An angel appeared to Phillip.

- A. God still works through angels today but they are not always visible.
- B. Angels minister to those who inherit salvation. (Hebrews 1)

## IV. Philip was sent by the Spirit out to the desert place.

- A. Both Philip's sending and the normal activity of evangelizing and prophesying by John and Peter were works of the Holy Spirit—God leads through the extraordinary and the ordinary.
- B. The Spirit has freedom to intervene in the believer's plans.
- C. The church should be open to the Spirit's unexpected movements.
  - 1. God dealt with Elijah physically, "soulishly," and spiritually.
  - 2. We must be prepared for the unpredictable work of God.
- D. God was adequate to meet every need.
- E. Both Philip and the Ethiopian Eunuch were prepared.
  - 1. It takes God's full provision to understand the Scriptures.

2. The eunuch was puzzled by the suffering servant. (Isaiah 53)
3. The eunuch was baptized to show Philip's new allegiance to Christ.

**Application questions:**

1. Should each church expect unusual things to happen? Explain.

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2. Does an expectation of the unusual mean that one should not be prepared?

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3. What unusual experiences have you had that pointed to the Spirit of God at work?

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