

Soul-Winning or Soul-Awakening

Acts 8:26–40

INTRO.

Acts 8 has been a spiritually rich chapter ... As we close it out – we come across a very familiar text – one I’m sure we’ve heard preached many times – Philip meets the Ethiopian eunuch ... I’ve preached this passage many times myself – mainly in the context of evangelism – or what we often call soul-winning ... But as I revisit it now – in light of the journey we’re on – I see something completely different ... So different, in fact, that I must confess – I was wrong – this text isn’t about soul-winning at all.

We’ll pull this text apart in a few minutes – but let me first – lay an important foundation ... In John 6:44 Jesus makes a profound and often overlooked statement – He states – “No one is able to come to Me - unless the Father Who sent Me – **attracts and draws him** – and **gives him the desire to come to Me** – and [then] I will raise him up at the last day.” (AMP) ... Listen to how The Voice translation phrases this verse – “If the Father who sent Me - - **does not draw you - - then there’s no way you can come to Me** ... But I will resurrect everyone who does come on the last day.” ... This verse really tweaks those who believe salvation is all about free will ... It is – but not in the way we’ve been taught – and we won’t go there today ... Here’s the foundational truth I want you to catch from John 6:44 – I call it “**Kingdom Attraction.**”

Now let’s drop another scripture into this same foundational bucket ... 2 Corinthians 4:4 (AMPC) – “For the god of this world has blinded the minds of unbelievers – **preventing them from seeing the illuminating light of the Gospel of the glory of Christ** – Who is the image and likeness of God.” ... This is an important verse to grasp ... The demonic realm is actively at work blinding the minds of humanity – lest they see the light of the Gospel ... If I could put this verse in a nutshell – I’d call it “**Kingdom Blindness.**”

When we look at these two verses side by side – we discover a kingdom paradox ... And this is exactly what the Ethiopian eunuch was caught in – a spiritual tug-of-war – between blindness and attraction ... He had gone up to Jerusalem – likely for Pentecost – drawn by an internal hunger he couldn't explain ... He experienced the height of the religious celebration – but likely left unsatisfied – still hungry for more ... Now – heading home – he tries to feed that internal hunger by reading from the scroll of Isaiah – but the more he reads – the more unsettled he becomes ... But the Father doesn't leave him struggling with the paradox ... Watch how the kingdom is about to intervene.

Angelic and Spirit Intervention - - - (vv. 26–29)

Verse 26 begins with – “Now an angel of the Lord spoke to Philip – Arise and go ...” ... Now hold on – Philip is in the middle of a great awakening in Samaria ... Miracles are flowing and people are coming alive to Kingdom realities ... And now – right in the midst of this powerful move – an angel shows up and says – “Get up and Go?” ... So, what does Philip do? ... He gets up and goes – following the angel's direction without hesitation ... Then we see in verse 29 – the Spirit speaks again – “Go over and join this chariot” ... And once again – Philip obeys.

Now catch this – a kainos being doesn't question – debate – nor delay – he simply moves in obedience ... This is what true alignment with the Spirit looks like ... Alignment isn't impulsive – it's instructional – it flows from intimacy ... Jesus expressed it perfectly in John 5:19 – “I speak to you timeless truth – the Son is not able to do anything from Himself or through His own initiative – I only do the works I see the Father doing – for the Son does the same works as His Father.” ... Like Jesus – Philip was attuned to the Father's movement – aware of the invisible rhythm of the Kingdom ... He wasn't trying to make something happen – he was simply moving with what the Kingdom was already doing.

Spiritual Nugget

When you live tuned to the Kingdom frequency – divine encounters stop being coincidences – they become your lifestyle ... The Father doesn't send you to start revivals – He sends you to

join what's already burning in someone else's heart ... Heaven isn't obsessed with numbers – it's focused on oneness ... The Kingdom doesn't chase crowds – it pursues connection ... And now – let's see what happens when an obedient kainos being collides with a hungry heart.

The Encounter - - - (vv. 30–38)

As Philip approaches the chariot – he hears the eunuch reading from Isaiah 53 ... Philip catches up – jumps in – and asks him – “Do you understand what you're reading?” ... Now think about this for a moment – the eunuch is riding in his chariot out on a desert road – and here comes this guy running alongside – jumps in – and immediately starts a conversation ... That's not exactly normal behavior – but it is Kingdom behavior ... What is even funnier – the eunuch never skips a beat and responds to Philip's question – “How can I unless someone guides me?”

The eunuch's statement reveals a heart that is caught in the paradox – between awakening and blindness ... His spirit was being stirred by God – yet his understanding was still blinded by old religious frameworks ... The words of Isaiah were calling him closer – but his mind couldn't yet interpret what his heart was already feeling ... So, he asks Philip to guide him – to bring clarity to the stirring within.

Verse 35 in the Mirror translation says – “Then Philip opened his mouth and began at this same portion of Scripture and unveiled to him the good news – the glad tidings concerning Jesus.” ... Notice what Philip didn't say – he didn't tell him he was a sinner in need of a Savior – instead he unveiled the good news concerning Jesus ... The gospel of the Kingdom isn't about behavioral modification – it's about identity awakening ... Philip wasn't giving him a Bible lesson – he was awakening his heart – feeding the hunger – removing the blinders – and unveiling the Christ who had always been present – but never fully recognized.

That's why – when they came upon water – which was another Kingdom moment as there isn't a whole lot of bodies of water in the desert – the eunuch didn't hesitate ... He exclaimed – “Look – here is water – what hinders me from being baptized?” ... This wasn't an inquiry to

fulfill a religious duty – it was a driving Kingdom desire ... See, an awakened spirit always seeks expression ... Baptism became the visible echo of an invisible realization – the outward expression of oneness with the Christ he had just encountered.

Spiritual Nugget

The gospel of the Kingdom doesn't awaken a guilty soul – it awakens the gift of grace ... It doesn't build a bridge to reach God – it reveals the union that was never broken ... The good news of Jesus isn't about fixing what's wrong in you – it's about unveiling what's already true in you – finished in Him ... When the revelation of the Christ dawns upon your heart – repentance becomes a joyful response – not a fearful requirement ... And now that awakening has done its work in the eunuch – watch what happens next to Philip – because divine alignment never ends where it starts.

The Translation - - - (vv. 39–40)

When they came up out of the water, Scripture says – “**The Spirit of the Lord caught Philip away.**” ... This wasn't a means of escape – it was a movement of assets ... Catch this – Philip's assignment was complete – and because he had become so in tuned with the Spirit – Philip was now transported right to his next assignment ... Again – I find it funny that the eunuch wasn't fazed by this event either as we see he went on his way rejoicing ... Don't miss this little nugget – a truly awakened soul always releases joy.

I don't want to go deep into this concept of translation today – other than to say ... Translation isn't about distance – it's about dimensions ... When your alignment reaches complete harmony, the natural realm will bend or flex with your spiritual resonance ... Philip didn't disappear – he transitioned – he moved through dimensions ... The same Spirit that drew him into this assignment – has simply propelled him into his next one.

TAKEAWAY

So, what does this mean for us – those who live and breathe as kainos beings in a culture still chasing what's already been given? ... Let me share with you a blended rendering of John 6:44 from The Passion and Mirror translations:

“No one can come to Me - unless the Father who sent Me - - - first draws them — pulling on their hearts with divine love ... Everyone who responds to that drawing - awakens to realize their origin in Me, - and in My resurrection, - they discover their own rising from death to life.”

Catch this revelation the best you can ... You don't have to look for people who need to be saved — you need to awaken and see those the Father is already drawing unto Himself ... So, stop trying to win people to Christ – and start looking for people who are stirred and unsettled in their soul – and don't know why ... Religion has taught us it is our responsibility to win souls for Jesus ... This text just taught us it is our responsibility to awaken to and jump into the Kingdom flow.

Did you notice this or was it just me? ... Philip didn't start an evangelistic ministry ... He didn't hold tent revivals or salvation campaigns ... He didn't launch an evangelism school or write a salvation curriculum ... Philip simply lived as a kainos being — in constant harmony with the Kingdom ... He moved with the rhythms of the Spirit and obeyed the instructions of the heavenly hosts ... To a naturally minded person – Philip's life looked unpredictable — even strange ... But to a spiritually minded person – it looked like it was in perfect alignment and harmony with the Kingdom ... Philip was the visible expression of a new creation being – living fully awake and manifesting the Kingdom in the natural realm.

Let me encourage you – this week – practice awareness ... Each morning before your feet touch the floor – pause – breathe – and whisper – “Spirit of Truth – align my thoughts with Yours ... Let me clearly see what You are doing in the Kingdom today” ... Remember - - Don't seek to initiate anything on your own ... Simply desire to be a part of what the Father desires to do that day ... As you go through your day – sense where you are so you can stay in alignment – in order to hear His whisper and instructions ... And expect that He will instruct you to bring the Kingdom to a seeking soul.

Let me share with you a simple example ... Last week we took a mini-vacation up north ... Robin has been looking for these certain boots at L.L. Bean ... We went to LL Bean and couldn't find them in Robin's size so we left ... The next day I felt impressed to go back ... We asked a sales agent if they had any boots out back ... She said she would look and asked her size ... Robin told her and then said – The boot run big so you want one size down ... With this new information – we went back to the discount rack – found 3 sets of boots to choose from and found a pair at a deep discount ... Listen to the whisper and stay in the flow

PRAYER

Father – thank You for the gentle pull of Your Spirit – for the unseen orchestration that draws hearts toward awakening ... We pause today and ask – make us aware ... Tune our hearts to Your frequency – our thoughts to Your rhythm – our steps to Your flow.

Lord – we don't want to live as soul-winners – we want to live as soul-awakeners ... Let us see where You are already moving – let us hear where You are already speaking – and let us join the work You've already begun.

Now, I declare over this house – may your inner ears open to angelic direction – may your spirit stay sensitive to divine encounters – and may you be translated into new seasons of purpose without strain or striving ... I prophesy that this week you will see what heaven is drawing to you – and you will flow where the Spirit is sending you ... You will not miss your moment – for alignment has already prepared your path.

So, arise awakened one – walk tuned to the Spirit's whisper – and carry the fragrance of the Kingdom wherever you go – for the desert road before you – is already holy ground.

Amen – and amen.