



**CHAPTER SEVEN**

**POWER ENCOUNTERS**

**PHILIP**

**Acts chapter 8**

Although we learn several tremendous lessons from examining Philip’s approach to sharing the gospel, the outstanding feature is power evangelism. A considerable portion of the following passage is taken up with healing the sick and driving out demons, not only proclaiming the Gospel.

Read **Acts 8v4-13**

1. After what experience did the crowds pay close attention to what Philip said? (**Acts 4v6**)

---

---

---

---

---

2. Why would witnessing God's power open a persons' receptiveness to hear the good news about Jesus?

---

---

---

---

3. Is setting a person free from demonic influence still relevant in communicating the Gospel today? Why or why not? (**Acts 4v7**)

---

---

---

---

4. How would you describe the atmosphere of the city of Samaria as a result of the miracles encountered? (**4v8**)

---

---

---

5. Reflect upon verses **9-13**. Have you ever observed somebody being delivered from an evil spirit, who ultimately became a believer in Jesus? Share your account.

---

---

---

---

---

6. Simon the sorcerer was known for possessing magical powers. (**Acts 4v9-10**). How do you think it affected the Samaritan's opinion of Jesus, who Philip preached, when Simon said he now believed?

---

---

---

7. Do you think part of the reason for Simon's conversion was that he came to realise Jesus was more powerful than the demonic spirits that he probably drew his power from? (**Acts 4v13**)

---

Explain your answer.

---

---

---

This may be an appropriate time to pause and pray for some unchurched friends you hope to reach with the Gospel. We are told in **2 Corinthians 4v4**: "The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel." It may well be that a friend or family member you hope to reach with the truth of Jesus is blinded by demonic influence. Take some time now to share and pray for some unchurched friends or associates by name.

Read **Acts 8v26-40**

The Ethiopian was an important official in charge of the entire treasury of Candace, queen of his country.

8. Why would it be strategic if such a person became a Christian? Is there anyone you have some relationship with today who could have significant influence for the Kingdom of God if they became a believer? (**Acts 8v26-28**)

---

---

---

---

9. Why was it important that Philip respond immediately to the prompting of the Holy Spirit? (**Acts 8v29**)

---

---

---

---

10. When trying to share the good news about Jesus, why is it important to ask questions? (**Acts 8v30**)

---

---

---

---

11. Is it important to wait for some kind of invitation before going further with a gospel explanation? Why? **(Acts 8v31)**

---

---

---

12. What is the significance of the evangelist starting to explain the good news with the very passage the Ethiopian was reading from? **(Acts 8v32-35)**

---

---

---

---

13. Before baptizing the Ethiopian, shouldn't Philip have taken him through a series of baptism classes? Explain your answer. **(Acts 8v36-40)**

---

---

---

---

14. After examining the passage, what form of baptism do you think Philip used? Sprinkling, immersion, other?

---

---

17. If you lead a person to Christ, should you take responsibility to encourage them to be baptised? Clarify your answer.

---

---

---

---

---

---

Immediately after Philip had baptised the queen's official, the Holy Spirit lead him away for his next mission (**Acts 8v40**). Has God got a mission for you to share the gospel this week with a work associate, a friend at school, sports mate, neighbour, family member, or a stranger that a conversation opens up with? Conclude with some prayer that the Holy Spirit might heighten your awareness of opportunities to share about Jesus this week!