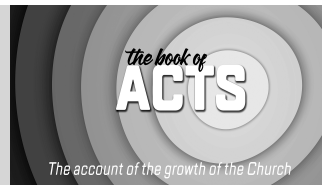


# Listen up

Acts - Part 12 Acts 8:26 - 40  
Noah Largent 10/23/22



## 1. What is Success?

Satisfying your pleasures? Money? Popularity? How about this: **Obeying God**. Take Philip - experiencing wildly successful profession success, then God says leave it behind and head to the desert. **Huh?** It only make sense if the goal is to listen to God and follow his leading.

*Acts 8:26 Now an angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Go south to the road—the desert road—that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." 27 So he started out...*

"...put yourself in Philip sandals. Here he is in the midst of a super exciting ministry in Samaria, *enjoying incredible success. Lives are being changed*, families brought together, illnesses healed, and entire villages turning to follow Jesus Christ. Suddenly, the Lord says "leave all of this and go to a lonely road in the middle of nowhere." Philip didn't argue or resist he obeyed. An effective witness maintains a sensitive heart, ready and willing to follow the Lord's prompting." *Living Insight - Acts, By C. Swindoll. Pg 158-59*

Luke, the author of Acts, wrote this account as a personal letter to a man named Theophilus (Acts 1:1). Part of his agenda is to explain how Jesus' followers have continued to multiply and spread - far beyond it's Jerusalem beginnings. Throughout the letter he uses the words: "spread", "grow", "increase" and "added" to describe it.

*"more and more men and women believed in the Lord and were added to their number." - Acts 5:14*

Examples: Acts 2:41; 2:47; 6:7; 9:42; 11:21; 12:24; 13:49; 14:1; 14:21; 17:12; 18:8; 19:20; 21:20

## 2. Listen up

The best advice/answers you can ever give are those that come from God's word, take advantage and reading it!

If you listen, people are always sharing their stories. Before Philip speaks he listens, then he asks a question. He shares *only after* the Ethiopian invites it.

*Acts 8:35 Then Philip began with that very passage of Scripture and told him the good news about Jesus.*

*1 Peter 3:15 Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect*



### Community Group Questions:

1. What did you hear? What hit home from the message? How did this message challenge, change, or affirm your thinking?
2. Philip helped the Ethiopian overcome perceived barriers between himself and becoming a follower of Jesus. What are some the perceived barriers people have today? How do we (and church) sometimes contribute to that problem?
3. In a world full of voices competing for your attention, where and how are you listening to God's and reading his word?

### Notes:

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