

How To Cooperate With The Holy Spirit
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Acts 8:26-40

An Ethiopian Receives Christ

²⁶ But an angel of the Lord spoke to Philip saying, “Get up and go south to the road that descends from Jerusalem to Gaza.” (^[a]This is a desert *road*.) ²⁷ So he got up and went; and there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, who was in charge of all her treasure; and he had come to Jerusalem to worship, ²⁸ and he was returning and sitting in his ^[b]chariot, and was reading the prophet Isaiah. ²⁹ Then the Spirit said to Philip, “Go up and join this ^[c]chariot.” ³⁰ Philip ran up and heard him reading Isaiah the prophet, and said, “Do you understand what you are reading?” ³¹ And he said, “Well, how could I, unless someone guides me?” And he invited Philip to come up and sit with him. ³² Now the passage of Scripture which he was reading was this:

“HE WAS LED AS A SHEEP TO SLAUGHTER;
AND AS A LAMB BEFORE ITS SHEARER IS SILENT,
SO HE DOES NOT OPEN HIS MOUTH.

³³ “IN HUMILIATION HIS JUDGMENT WAS TAKEN AWAY;
WHO WILL ^[d]RELATE HIS ^[e]GENERATION?
FOR HIS LIFE IS REMOVED FROM THE EARTH.”

³⁴ The eunuch answered Philip and said, “Please *tell me*, of whom does the prophet say this? Of himself or of someone else?” ³⁵ Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning from this Scripture he preached Jesus to him. ³⁶ As they went along the road they came to some water; and the eunuch *said, “Look! Water! What prevents me from being baptized?” ³⁷ ^[f]And Philip said, “If you believe with all your heart, you may.” And he answered and said, “I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.” ³⁸ And he ordered the ^[g]chariot to stop; and they both went down into the water, Philip as well as the eunuch, and he baptized him. ³⁹ When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; and the eunuch no longer saw him, ^[h]but went on his way rejoicing. ⁴⁰ But Philip ^[i]found himself at ^[j]Azotus, and as he passed through he kept preaching the gospel to all the cities until he came to Caesarea.

Footnotes:

- a. Acts 8:26 Or *This city is deserted*
- b. Acts 8:28 Or *carriage*
- c. Acts 8:29 Or *carriage*
- d. Acts 8:33 Or *describe*
- e. Acts 8:33 Or *family* or *origin*
- f. Acts 8:37 Early mss do not contain this v
- g. Acts 8:38 Or *carriage*
- h. Acts 8:39 Lit *for he was going*
- i. Acts 8:40 Or *was found*
- j. Acts 8:40 OT: Ashdod

Two Extremes That Christians Are Guilty Of:

1. We try to do for ourselves things only God can do.
2. We try to leave to God things He has told us to do.

The Ministry Of The Holy Spirit Is A Ministry Of Cooperation.

John 14:16-31

Role of the Spirit

¹⁶ I will ask the Father, and He will give you another ^[a]Helper, that He may be with you forever; ¹⁷ *that is* the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it does not see Him or know Him, *but* you know Him because He abides with you and will be in you.

¹⁸ “I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. ¹⁹ ^[b]After a little while the world will no longer see Me, but you *will* see Me; because I live, you will live also. ²⁰ In that day you will know that I am in My Father, and you in Me, and I in you. ²¹ He who has My commandments and keeps them is the one who loves Me; and he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and will disclose Myself to him.” ²² Judas (not Iscariot) *said to Him, “Lord, what then has happened that You are going to disclose Yourself to us and not to the world?” ²³ Jesus answered and said to him, “If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our abode with him. ²⁴ He who does not love Me does not keep My words; and the word which you hear is not Mine, but the Father’s who sent Me.

²⁵ “These things I have spoken to you while abiding with you. ²⁶ But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I said to you. ²⁷ Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Do not let your heart be troubled, nor let it be fearful. ²⁸ You heard that I said to you, ‘I go away, and I will come to you.’ If you loved Me, you would have rejoiced because I go to the Father, for the Father is greater than I. ²⁹ Now I have told you before it happens, so that when it happens, you may believe. ³⁰ I will not speak much more with you, for the ruler of the world is coming, and he has nothing in Me; ³¹ but so that the world may know that I love the Father, ^[c]I do exactly as the Father commanded Me. Get up, let us go from here.

Footnotes:

- a. John 14:16 Gr *Paracletos*, one called alongside to help; or *Comforter, Advocate, Intercessor*
- b. John 14:19 Lit *Yet a little and the world*
- c. John 14:31 Lit *and as the Father...so I do*

Matthew 6:9-13

Jesus Teaches How To Pray

⁹ “Pray, then, in this way:

‘Our Father who is in heaven,
Hallowed be Your name.

¹⁰ ‘Your kingdom come.

Your will be done,

On earth as it is in heaven.

¹¹ ‘Give us this day ^[a]our daily bread.

¹² ‘And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.

¹³ ‘And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from ^[b]evil. ^[c][For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.]’

Footnotes:

- a. Matthew 6:11 Or *our bread for tomorrow*
- b. Matthew 6:13 Or *the evil one*
- c. Matthew 6:13 This clause not found in early mss

Matthew 28:19-20

The Great Commission

¹⁹^[a]Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you ^[b]always, even to the end of the age.”

Footnotes:

- a. Matthew 28:19 Or *Having gone*; Gr aorist part.
- b. Matthew 28:20 Lit *all the days*

Three Suggestions How to Cooperate with the Holy Spirit

1. **We must be sensitive and submissive to the opportunities of The Holy Spirit because:**
 - a. **The opportunities are unknown**
 - b. **God’s ways are unexplained**
 - c. **The opportunities are often unusual**
2. **We cooperate by securing the objective of The Holy Spirit (testify Jesus)**
3. **We must be swift to obey The Holy Spirit (swift obedience) because when The Holy Spirit speaks:**
 - a. **The time is right**
 - b. **The time is short to seize the opportunity**

1 Corinthians 13

The Excellence of Love

¹ If I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but do not have love, I have become a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. ² If I have *the gift of prophecy*, and know all mysteries and all knowledge; and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. ³ And if I give all my possessions to feed *the poor*, and if I surrender my body ^[a]to be burned, but do not have love, it profits me nothing.

⁴ Love is patient, love is kind *and* is not jealous; love does not brag *and* is not arrogant, ⁵ does not act unbecomingly; it does not seek its own, is not provoked, does not take into account a wrong *suffered*, ⁶ does not rejoice in unrighteousness, but rejoices with the truth; ⁷ ^[b]bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

⁸ Love never fails; but if *there are gifts of* ^[c]prophecy, they will be done away; if *there are* tongues, they will cease; if *there is* knowledge, it will be done away. ⁹ For we know in part and we prophesy in part; ¹⁰ but when the perfect comes, the partial will be done away. ¹¹ When I was a child, I used to speak like a child, think like a child, reason like a child; when I ^[d]became a man, I did away with childish things. ¹² For now we see in a mirror ^[e]dimly, but then face to face; now I know in part, but then I will know fully just as I also have been fully known. ¹³ But now faith, hope, love, abide these three; but the ^[f]greatest of these is love.

Footnotes:

- a. 1 Corinthians 13:3 Early mss read *that I may boast*

- b. 1 Corinthians 13:7 Or *covers*
- c. 1 Corinthians 13:8 Lit *prophecies*
- d. 1 Corinthians 13:11 Lit *have become...have done away with*
- e. 1 Corinthians 13:12 Lit *in a riddle*
- f. 1 Corinthians 13:13 Lit *greater*

Isaiah 55:8-11

Your ways are not My ways

⁸“For My thoughts are not your thoughts,
Nor are your ways My ways,” declares the LORD.
⁹“For *as* the heavens are higher than the earth,
So are My ways higher than your ways
And My thoughts than your thoughts.
¹⁰“For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven,
And do not return there without watering the earth
And making it bear and sprout,
And furnishing seed to the sower and bread to the eater;
¹¹ So will My word be which goes forth from My mouth;
It will not return to Me empty,
Without accomplishing what I desire,
And without succeeding *in the matter* for which I sent it.

John 15:18-27

Disciples' Relation to the World

¹⁸“If the world hates you, ^[a]you know that it has hated Me before *it hated* you. ¹⁹ If you were of the world, the world would love its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, because of this the world hates you. ²⁰ Remember the word that I said to you, ‘A slave is not greater than his master.’ If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you; if they kept My word, they will keep yours also. ²¹ But all these things they will do to you for My name’s sake, because they do not know the One who sent Me. ²² If I had not come and spoken to them, they would not have ^[b]sin, but now they have no excuse for their sin. ²³ He who hates Me hates My Father also. ²⁴ If I had not done among them the works which no one else did, they would not have ^[c]sin; but now they have both seen and hated Me and My Father as well. ²⁵ But *they have done this* to fulfill the word that is written in their Law, ‘THEY HATED ME WITHOUT A CAUSE.’

²⁶ “When the ^[d]Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, *that is* the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father, He will testify about Me, ²⁷ ^[e]and you *will* testify also, because you have been with Me from the beginning.

Footnotes:

- a. John 15:18 Or (imperative) *know that*
- b. John 15:22 I.e. guilt
- c. John 15:24 I.e. guilt
- d. John 15:26 Gr *Paracletos*, one called alongside to help; or *Comforter, Advocate, Intercessor*
- e. John 15:27 Or (imperative) *and bear witness*

Matthew 22:35-40

Love Your Neighbor As Yourself

³⁵ One of them, ^[a]a lawyer, asked Him *a question*, testing Him, ³⁶ “Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?” ³⁷ And He said to him, “YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND.” ³⁸ This is the great and ^[b]foremost commandment. ³⁹ The second is like it, ‘YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF.’ ⁴⁰ On these two commandments depend the whole Law and the Prophets.”

Footnotes:

- a. Matthew 22:35 I.e. an expert in the Mosaic Law
- b. Matthew 22:38 Or *first*

Acts 10:1-48

Cornelius's Vision

¹ Now *there was* a man at Caesarea named Cornelius, a centurion of what was called the Italian ^[a]cohort, ² a devout man and one who feared God with all his household, and gave many ^[b]alms to the *Jewish* people and prayed to God continually. ³ About the ^[c]ninth hour of the day he clearly saw in a vision an angel of God who had *just* come in and said to him, “Cornelius!” ⁴ And fixing his gaze on him and being much alarmed, he said, “What is it, Lord?” And he said to him, “Your prayers and ^[d]alms have ascended as a memorial before God. ⁵ Now dispatch *some* men to Joppa and send for a man *named* Simon, who is also called Peter; ⁶ he is staying with a tanner *named* Simon, whose house is by the sea.” ⁷ When the angel who was speaking to him had left, he summoned two of his ^[e]servants and a devout soldier of those who were his personal attendants, ⁸ and after he had explained everything to them, he sent them to Joppa.

⁹ On the next day, as they were on their way and approaching the city, Peter went up on the housetop about the ^[f]sixth hour to pray. ¹⁰ But he became hungry and was desiring to eat; but while they were making preparations, he fell into a trance; ¹¹ and he **saw* the ^[g]sky opened up, and an ^[h]object like a great sheet coming down, lowered by four corners to the ground, ¹² and there were in it all *kinds of* four-footed animals and ^[i]crawling creatures of the earth and birds of the ^[j]air. ¹³ A voice came to him, “Get up, Peter, ^[k]kill and eat!” ¹⁴ But Peter said, “By no means, Lord, for I have never eaten anything ^[l]unholy and unclean.” ¹⁵ Again a voice *came* to him a second time, “What God has cleansed, no *longer* consider ^[m]unholy.” ¹⁶ This happened three times, and immediately the ^[n]object was taken up into the ^[o]sky.

¹⁷ Now while Peter was greatly perplexed in ^[p]mind as to what the vision which he had seen might be, behold, the men who had been sent by Cornelius, having asked directions for Simon's house, appeared at the gate; ¹⁸ and calling out, they were asking whether Simon, who was also called Peter, was staying there. ¹⁹ While Peter was reflecting on the vision, the Spirit said to him, “Behold, ^[q]three men are looking for you. ²⁰ But get up, go downstairs and accompany them ^[r]without misgivings, for I have sent them Myself.” ²¹ Peter went down to the men and said, “Behold, I am the one you are looking for; what is the reason for which you have come?” ²² They said, “Cornelius, a centurion, a righteous and God-fearing man well spoken of by the entire nation of the Jews, was *divinely* directed by a holy angel to send for you *to come* to his house and hear ^[s]a message from you.” ²³ So he invited them in and gave them lodging.

Peter at Caesarea

And on the next day he got up and went away with them, and some of the brethren from Joppa accompanied him. ²⁴ On the following day he entered Caesarea. Now Cornelius was waiting for them and had called together his relatives and close friends. ²⁵ When Peter entered, Cornelius met him, and fell at his feet and ^[t]worshiped *him*. ²⁶ But Peter raised him up, saying, “Stand up; I too am *just* a man.” ²⁷ As he talked with him, he entered and **found* many people assembled. ²⁸ And

he said to them, “You yourselves know how unlawful it is for a man who is a Jew to associate with a foreigner or to visit him; and *yet* God has shown me that I should not call any man ^[u]unholy or unclean.²⁹ That is why I came without even raising any objection when I was sent for. So I ask for what reason you have sent for me.”

³⁰ Cornelius said, “Four days ago to this hour, I was praying in my house during the ^[v]ninth hour; and behold, a man stood before me in shining garments,³¹ and he *said, ‘Cornelius, your prayer has been heard and your ^[w]alms have been remembered before God.³² Therefore send to Joppa and invite Simon, who is also called Peter, to come to you; he is staying at the house of Simon *the* tanner by the sea.’³³ So I sent for you immediately, and you have ^[x]been kind enough to come. Now then, we are all here present before God to hear all that you have been commanded by the Lord.”

Gentiles Hear Good News

³⁴ Opening his mouth, Peter said:

“I most certainly understand *now* that God is not one to show partiality,³⁵ but in every nation the man who ^[y]fears Him and ^[z]does what is right is welcome to Him.³⁶ The word which He sent to the sons of Israel, preaching ^[aa]peace through Jesus Christ (He is Lord of all)—³⁷ you yourselves know the thing which took place throughout all Judea, starting from Galilee, after the baptism which John proclaimed.³⁸ ^[ab]*You know of* Jesus of Nazareth, how God anointed Him with the Holy Spirit and with power, ^[ac]and *how* He went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him.³⁹ We are witnesses of all the things He did both in the ^[ad]land of the Jews and in Jerusalem. They also put Him to death by hanging Him on a ^[ae]cross.⁴⁰ God raised Him up on the third day and granted that He become visible,⁴¹ not to all the people, but to witnesses who were chosen beforehand by God, *that is*, to us who ate and drank with Him after He arose from the dead.⁴² And He ordered us to ^[af]preach to the people, and solemnly to testify that this is the One who has been appointed by God as Judge of the living and the dead.⁴³ Of Him all the prophets bear witness that through His name everyone who believes in Him receives forgiveness of sins.”

⁴⁴ While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit fell upon all those who were listening to the ^[ag]message.⁴⁵ All the ^[ah]circumcised believers who came with Peter were amazed, because the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out on the Gentiles also.⁴⁶ For they were hearing them speaking with tongues and exalting God. Then Peter answered,⁴⁷ “Surely no one can refuse the water for these to be baptized who have received the Holy Spirit just as we *did*, can he?”⁴⁸ And he ordered them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ.

Footnotes:

- a. Acts 10:1 Or *battalion*
- b. Acts 10:2 Or *gifts of charity*
- c. Acts 10:3 I.e. 3 p.m.
- d. Acts 10:4 Or *deeds of charity*
- e. Acts 10:7 Or *household slaves*
- f. Acts 10:9 I.e. noon
- g. Acts 10:11 Or *heaven*
- h. Acts 10:11 Or *vessel*
- i. Acts 10:12 Or *reptiles*
- j. Acts 10:12 Or *heaven*
- k. Acts 10:13 Or *sacrifice*
- l. Acts 10:14 Or *profane*; lit *common*
- m. Acts 10:15 Lit *make common*
- n. Acts 10:16 Or *vessel*

- o. Acts 10:16 Or *heaven*
- p. Acts 10:17 Lit *himself*
- q. Acts 10:19 One early ms reads *two*
- r. Acts 10:20 Lit *doubting nothing*
- s. Acts 10:22 Lit *words*
- t. Acts 10:25 Or *prostrated himself in reverence*
- u. Acts 10:28 Or *profane*; lit *common*
- v. Acts 10:30 I.e. 3 to 4 p.m.
- w. Acts 10:31 Or *deeds of charity*
- x. Acts 10:33 Lit *done well in coming*
- y. Acts 10:35 Or *reverences*
- z. Acts 10:35 Lit *works righteousness*
- aa. Acts 10:36 Or *the gospel of peace*
- bb. Acts 10:38 Or *How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth*
- cc. Acts 10:38 Lit *who went*
- dd. Acts 10:39 Or *countryside*
- ee. Acts 10:39 Lit *wood*
- ff. Acts 10:42 Or *proclaim*
- gg. Acts 10:44 Lit *word*
- hh. Acts 10:45 Lit *believers from among the circumcision*; i.e. Jewish Christians

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