



Biblical Missionaries 3Q 2015 Lesson 10

Philip as Missionary

SABBATH

Read Memory Text: “ ‘But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.’”
Acts 1:8

What power? When you hear power what comes to mind?

What kind of power would they receive?

The power of God—but what kind of power is that?

What was the result of the power they received? In other words, what did they do with the power?

- Died to self and loved other people, lived selflessly
- Devoted their lives and resources to taking God’s Remedy to others
- Spoke and everyone heard in their own language (universal translator)
- Cast out demons
- Healed the sick
- Walked out of locked prisons
- Immune to snake bite
- Protected from storms
- Warned about threats
- Given wisdom
- Given visions and spiritual insight

What kind of power do these events represent?

- The power of truth and love! This is the power of God, the double streams of fire that fell on Pentecost. The fire of God’s presence. This is cleansing fire, cleansing from sin and deviation from God’s design.
- Thus, such a power results in physical and spiritual healing
- This power opens avenues of communication and removes obstacles to spreading the Remedy

What did we not see evidenced by this power?

- Coercion, intimidation, pressure, control, or anything that would undermine liberty
- We did not see violence, physical weapons, rioting
- We did not see fighting for one’s rights
- Deceit or manipulation



- Politics or any other attempt to change the state government

Some might be thinking, but what about Ananias and Sapphira? What do you think? Was this God acting to punish? Was God coercing? Was God putting pressure on people to give to the cause or else?

Or did these two people reap in their own selves what happens when the unhealed are faced with intense exposure to love and truth? Was their experience the shock of being exposed and confronted by the truth—what they knew and therefore, believed to be true?

What happens when people believe something strongly and are confronted in a sudden and shocking way?

- 1587 Soares de Souza—first westerner to document, amongst the Tupi-nambas Indians the sudden death of those who were condemned and given the death sentence by their medicine man.
- 1875 Varnhagen documented amongst the Brazilian Indian tribes that the chiefs or shamans could cause death by fear.
- 1906 Leonard documented in Africa amongst the Lower Niger people: “I have seen more than one hardened old soldier dying steadily and by inches because he believed himself bewitched; no nourishment or medicines that were given to him had the slightest effect either to check the mischief or to improve his condition in any way, and nothing was able to divert him from a fate which he considered inevitable. In the same way, and under very similar conditions, I have seen Kru-men and others die in spite of every effort that was made to save them, simply because they had made up their minds, not (as we thought at the time) to die, but that being in the clutch of malignant demons they were bound to die.”
- 1682 Merolla, Congo: “A young negro on a journey lodged in a friend’s house for the night. The friend had prepared for their breakfast a wild hen, a food strictly banned by a rule which must be inviolably observed by the immature. The young fellow demanded whether it was indeed a wild hen, and when the host answered ‘No,’ he at of it heartily and proceeded on his way. A few years later, when the two met again, the old friend asked the younger man if he would eat a wild hen. He answered that he had been solemnly charged by a wizard not to eat that food. Thereupon the host began to laugh and asked him why he refused it now after having eaten it at his table before. On hearing this news the negro immediately began to tremble, so greatly was he possessed by fear, and in less than twenty-four hours was dead.”

(Psychosomatic Medicine: [May 1957 - Volume 19 - Issue 3 - ppg 182-190](#))

So, what view of God do you think Ananias and Sapphira held? Then what was a possible outcome being confronted as they were?

Acts 5:1-11 From *The Remedy*:

¹A man named Ananias and his wife Sapphira agreed to sell a piece of property and give



the entire amount to the Lord's cause. ²When the Lord blessed it and the property sold for more than expected, Ananias, with the full consent of his wife, kept back the unexpected extra and turned in only what the property was thought to be worth. As he lay the offering at Peter's feet, ³Peter said, "Ananias, why did you choose to side with Satan and fill your heart with greed? You lied to the Holy Spirit and chose to keep some of the money you received for the land. ⁴Wasn't the land yours before you sold it? You didn't have to promise to give all the money from the sale. Were you not free to promise only a portion? Why would you promise it all and then hold a portion back? You haven't lied to finite humans; you have lied to God."

⁵ When Ananias was confronted with the truth, it shocked him, and he fell down and died. All who heard what happened were overcome with fear. ⁶ The young men came right in, wrapped up the body, carried it out and buried it.

⁷ Three hours later, Sapphira, Ananias' wife came in, but she didn't know what had happened to her husband. ⁸ Peter asked her, "Is this the entire price you and Ananias received from the sale of the land?" "Yes, that's the full price," she answered.

⁹ Peter confronted her with the truth: "What were you and your husband thinking, lying to God? A few hours ago your husband, when confronted with the truth of what you have done, died. The men who buried him are coming through the door, and they will carry you out and bury you also."

¹⁰ When she heard this, it shocked her, and she fell down and died. Then the young men came in and finding she was dead, carried her out and buried her beside her husband. ¹¹ The entire congregation and all who heard about this were gripped with fear.

Then what about this commentary found in *The Acts of the Apostles*?

Afterward, **Ananias and Sapphira grieved the Holy Spirit by yielding to feelings of covetousness.** They began to regret their promise and soon lost the sweet influence of the blessing that had warmed their hearts with a desire to do large things in behalf of the cause of Christ. They thought they had been too hasty, that they ought to reconsider their decision. They talked the matter over, and decided not to fulfill their pledge. They saw, however, that those who parted with their possessions to supply the needs of their poorer brethren, were held in high esteem among the believers; and ashamed to have their brethren know that their selfish souls grudged that which they had solemnly dedicated to God, **they deliberately decided to sell their property and pretend to give all the proceeds into the general fund,** but really to keep a large share for themselves. Thus they would secure their living from the common store and at the same time gain the high esteem of their brethren. {AA 72.1}

But **God hates hypocrisy and falsehood.** [Why does God hate it? What happens in the



character of His children to harbor such attitudes? And what influence on others do hypocrites have? What did Lucifer do in heaven?] Ananias and Sapphira practiced fraud in their dealing with God; they lied to the Holy Spirit, **and their sin was visited with swift and terrible judgment.** When Ananias came with his offering, Peter said: "Ananias, why hath Satan filled thine heart to lie to the Holy Ghost, and to keep back part of the price of the land? Whiles it remained, was it not thine own? and after it was sold, was it not in thine own power? why hast thou conceived this thing in thine heart? thou hast not lied unto men, but unto God." {AA 72.2}

What do you understand this to mean "visited with swift and terrible judgment."

Does it say they were visited with swift and terrible punishment? No! What they were confronted with was immediate diagnosis, i.e. judgment, revelation of the truth of their situation. They were exposed as liars and frauds; and they were judged right then and there to be hardened against God. And what happened? They fell down and died.

They were overcome with guilt and shame—do we find this incredible to believe? Ignoring the evidence given above, do we believe that Jesus, who knew no sin, became sin for us? That He experienced what unremedied sin does in order for us to be saved? And when did this happen to Him? In Gethsemane, and what would have happened to Jesus in Gethsemane if God didn't intervene and send an angel to strengthen Him? He would have died, from what? From the mental anguish of being separated from His Father, which is the result of what unremedied sin does.

What do you think of this commentary, regarding the idea of the judgments of God:

"I was shown that **the judgments of God would not come directly out from the Lord upon them,** but in this way;

"They place themselves beyond His protection. He warns, corrects, reproves, and points out the only path of safety; then if those who have been the objects of His special care will follow their own course, independent of the Spirit of God, after repeated warnings, if they choose their own way, then **He does not commission His angels to prevent Satan's decided attacks upon them.**

"It is Satan's power that is at work at sea and on land, bringing calamity and distress, and sweeping off multitudes to make sure of his prey, and storm and tempest both by sea and land will be, for Satan has come down in great wrath. He is at work. He knows his time is short and, he is not restrained; we shall see more terrible manifestations of his great power than we have ever dreamed of." Manuscript Release vol. 14, p. 3

What are God's judgments? They are His accurate diagnosis of each and every heart and situation! And His actions are always in harmony with His nature, character and law of love, always designed to heal and restore, but under the principle of liberty, because love only exists in an



atmosphere of liberty. Thus, those who choose to live independently from God, will eventually be set free to experience what they have chosen, but only when they have passed the point that no amount of truth and love has any more impact upon them.

What do you think of this commentary:

Under the demonstration of the Holy Spirit's power, the Jews saw their guilt in refusing the evidence that God had sent; but they would not yield their wicked resistance. **Their obstinacy** became more and more determined, and **worked the ruin of their souls**. [what worked the ruin of their souls. What kind of law is this?] **It was not that they could not yield, for they could, yet would not.** It was not alone that they had been guilty, and deserving of wrath, but that they armed themselves with the attributes of Satan, and **determinedly continued to be opposed to God.** Every day, in their refusal to repent, they took up their rebellion afresh. They were preparing to reap that which they had sown. **The wrath of God is not declared against men merely because of the sins which they have committed, but for choosing to continue in a state of resistance,** and, although they have light and knowledge, repeating their sins of the past. If they would submit, they would be pardoned; **but they are determined not to yield.** They defy God by their obstinacy. These souls have given themselves to Satan, and he controls them according to his will. {Testimony to Ministers 74.2}

How was it with the rebellious inhabitants of the antediluvian world? After rejecting the message of Noah, they plunged into sin with greater abandon than ever before, and doubled the enormity of their corrupting practices. **Those who refuse to reform by accepting Christ find nothing reformative in sin; their minds are set to carry their spirit of revolt, and they are not, and never will be, forced to submission.** The **judgment which God brought upon the antediluvian world declared it incurable.** {TM 75.1}

What type of law is being described here? Why does God's wrath come? What is God's wrath? What law lens do you understand it through?

- The city of murderers is doomed! *I myself will pile up the firewood.* Bring more wood! Fan the flames! Cook the meat! Boil away the broth! Burn up the bones! Now set the empty bronze pot on the coals and let it get red-hot....You will not be pure again until you have felt the full force of my anger. I, the Lord, have spoken. The time has come for me to act (emphasis mine). (Ezek 24:2, 9-14)
- "For a fire has been kindled by my wrath, one that burns to the realm of death below. It will devour the earth and its harvests and set afire the foundations of the mountains. I will heap calamities upon them and spend my arrows against them." (DT 32:22, 23)
- "If only they were wise and would understand this and discern what their end will be! How could one man chase a thousand, or two put ten thousand to flight, unless their Rock had sold them, *unless the Lord had given them up?*" (emphasis mine DT 32:29, 30)



- Paul makes this abundantly clear in Rom 1:18-32 when he says the wrath of God is being seen against all godlessness and he tells us three times in verses 24, 26 and 28 that God's wrath is giving people up to reap what unremedied sin does—pain, suffering and death.

So what power did the Apostles receive and wield? The power of truth and love under the principle of freedom!

They were empowered to be witnesses to Jesus – to witness what? To give witness to what?

- The truth about Jesus' resurrection
- The truth about God's kingdom of love and methods of governing
- The truth about God's Remedy to sin, procured by Christ and freely offered to all

What has been the witness of the Christian church? Has it consistently revealed the love of Jesus?

SUNDAY

Philip the Evangelist—there are two Philips in the New Testament, Philip the Apostle and Philip the Evangelist.

What do you think Philip said when he entered new areas to evangelize about Jesus?

Today, do you think John the Baptist's approach, standing on a street corner and proclaiming the need to repent, would work? Why or why not?

Was the message taken by the early church about a risen Jesus, not only true, but new and fresh and revitalizing? And what did that message focus upon? Was it not Jesus, His victory over sin and the offer for renewal of heart and mind?

Has something happened to the message since that time? What?

The message was corrupted by a system of beliefs that doesn't bring peace and joy, but fear and burdens. The "gospel" presented to the world most often today, is, functionally, no different than human systems of governing. Thus, it is not new, it is not fresh, it is not revitalizing, it is fear inducing, burden inflicting and hope destroying. When we present a god that harmonizes with Satan's view of God then our message is devoid of power. It has a form of godliness but no power thereof!

Examples:

- God's law is imposed, no different functionally than human laws
- God, therefore, is the source of inflicted punishment
- Sins are bad deeds which are being recorded and if you don't get them—each one—legally taken care of God will torture you to death



- The church is God's authority on earth and holds the keys to salvation, thus one must follow the dictates from church headquarters in order to be saved
 - Institutional ritual control (sacraments) if the institution doesn't baptize can't go to heaven, if the institution doesn't do last rights can't go to heaven, if the institution doesn't hear your confession can't go to heaven. If you don't pay your tithes to the institution you can't go to heaven...
- Once the idea of an imposed law was accepted then all types of arbitrary beliefs and rules infected Christianity:
 - Indulgences
 - Elite clergy separate from the laity
 - Holy relics with sacred powers
 - Penance
- Crusades, inquisitions, torture
- Christianity is seen as a system of coercive and arbitrary power and thus God is portrayed in this false light

Further, under this human imposed law system, many words lost their true meaning:

- Being *saved* rather than meaning being healed, renewed, reconciled in heart and mind to God to love Him and others, came to mean having your sinful deeds accounted for either in the church system of confession, penance, indulgence or in the heavenly accounting of the application of Jesus' blood to your heavenly records
- Becoming a *Christian*, rather than becoming a person who loves Jesus and His Father with all your heart and practices God's methods of love—thus revealing Christ's character of truth and freedom in dealing with others, came to mean belonging to an institutional religion and affirming their creed.
- *Christianity*, rather than being the unfolding of never-ending truth, became the bastion of closed-minded rigid thinkers who establish mountains of traditions, doctrines and beliefs designed to obstruct truth and keep people in fear of God and loyal to the institution.

MONDAY

The lesson is focused on Acts 6:1-7, which is the struggle of the rapid growth in the early church and the Apostles getting bogged down with administrative and organizational issues. They decided to select seven others who would be deacons, to take these responsibilities off the shoulder of the Apostles, so the Apostles could do their work in spreading the gospel.

I know that our ministry needs some more people who would be willing to help Dean run the equipment each week, set up, take down, control room. He would like enough people that no one would have to do it more than once a month. But recently that has not been the case. If you would be willing to help out with our broadcast team please see Dean after class.



TUESDAY

The lesson asks us to read Acts 8:1-8, from *The Remedy*:

¹ And Saul stood there, applauding his murder. That very day, terrible persecution broke out against those in Jerusalem who had partaken of the Remedy and were part of the church—the Lord's 'spiritual health-care' team. They all scattered throughout Judea and Samaria—all, that is, except for the Twelve. ² Men who were loyal to God buried Stephen and grieved deeply for him, ³ but Saul set out on a mission to destroy the church. He went on a house-by-house search and dragged away any who had partaken of the Remedy, imprisoning both men and women.

⁴ Those who had scattered out from Jerusalem spread the Remedy wherever they went. ⁵ Philip took the truth of the Messiah to a city in Samaria. ⁶ When the people heard the beauty and clarity of the Remedy he presented, and saw the miraculous healings, they were riveted to his every word. ⁷ Evil spirits shouted in protest as they were driven out, and many paralyzed and crippled people were healed. ⁸ So the city was filled with great joy.

What do you think about miracles in evangelism today?

Would our efforts be helped by miracles? What is the problem with relying on miracles for evangelism?

- **Deuteronomy 13:1-3.** "If a prophet arises among you, or a dreamer of dreams, and gives you a sign or a wonder, and the sign or wonder which he tells you comes to pass, and if he says, 'Let us go after other gods,' which you have not known, 'and let us serve them,' you shall not listen to the word of that prophet or to that dreamer of dreams." (*RSV*)
- **Matthew 24:24.** "If anyone says to you then, 'Look, here is Christ!' or 'There he is!' don't believe it. False christs and false prophets are going to appear and will produce great signs and wonders to mislead, if it were possible, even God's own people!" (*Phillips*)

So based on these Bible texts one of the founders of the SDA church wrote:

- "The way in which Christ worked was to preach the Word, and to relieve suffering by miraculous works of healing. **But I am instructed that we cannot now work in this way; for Satan will exercise his power by working miracles. God's servants today could not work by means of miracles; because spurious works of healing, claiming to be divine, will be wrought.** *MM 14*
- "As spiritualism more closely imitates the nominal Christianity of the day, it has greater power to deceive and ensnare. Satan himself is converted, after the modern order of things. He will appear in the character of an angel of light. **Through the agency of spiritualism, miracles will be wrought, the sick will be healed, and many undeniable wonders will be performed.** And as the spirits will profess faith in the Bible, and manifest respect for the institutions of the church, their work will be accepted as a manifestation of divine



power." *Great Controversy* 588 (1888)

Miracles can be counterfeited—truth is truth and once one understands reality, how it works, miracles cannot persuade one away from it. Thus, truth doesn't need a miraculous sign to validate it!

WEDNESDAY

Read first paragraph, "According to Acts..." Have you ever had the difficulty of dealing with someone who restricted the evidence they would accept?

What about those who will only read the KJV of the Bible? Or those who reject the integration of science and experience, or some who reject Scripture and will only accept science and experience?

How do you approach such people? Do you understand God's design well enough in all spheres that you can speak about His kingdom to everyone?

Jesus quoted Scripture to the Pharisees and Sadducees, meeting them with what they touted as their source of authority. The people didn't know that much Scripture, so He met them with examples from nature and their own life experiences to illustrate and demonstrate the truth of God's kingdom.

Read last paragraph, "The Spirit of the Lord..." Isn't this profound? Someone was converted to Christ, based on the truth about Jesus and His accomplishments, and then was baptized into the church, without being run through the 28 Fundamentals? How could this be?

Why don't we do it this way today? Is it because we are afraid, afraid the institution will be infected and controlled by people to haven't accepted our creed?

Read bottom green section, "Philip explained to the Ethiopian..." Can anyone tell me what the central message of Jesus is?

- Jesus died for our sins?
- Jesus paid the price?
- Jesus redeems us from God's wrath?
- Jesus covers us with His righteousness?
- Jesus shed His blood for our salvation?

Are these the central message of Jesus' mission?

"I have brought you glory on earth by completing the work you gave me to do... ⁶I have revealed you to those whom you gave me out of the world. They were yours; you gave them to me and they have obeyed your word." Jn 17:4,6



What did Jesus say was His primary work? Revealing the truth about God, why?

- What did the war in heaven start over?
- How did sin infect humanity?
- Lies believed broke the circle of love and trust
- Broken love and trust result in fear and selfishness
- Fear and selfishness result in acts of sin
- Acts of sin damage mind, body, character and result in death
- Healing starts with the truth about God which destroys lies and restores trust
- Restored trust results in opening the heart and God pours His love in
- Trust and love results in acts or righteousness
- Acts of righteousness result in growth in godliness and spreading His kingdom of love and truth

THURSDAY

Read second paragraph, “At this stage...” What do you think about the fact four of his daughters were given the gift of prophecy?

Do you think God has a different view of the role of women in the church than they did then and than we do today?

What does it say about God that He empowered women with such gifts?

What about the last sentence of that paragraph, “This testifies to good parenting and true godliness in this pioneering Christian family.”

Does it? Is the lesson suggesting then, that if children go wayward there was bad parenting?

What about God’s parenting of Lucifer and Adam and Eve? Did they go wayward because of bad parenting?

What injury do we do to people to think so narrowly?

What is the balance in the relationship between parenting and outcomes?

FRIDAY

Read and discuss questions

1. Is Christianity unified or fragmented? Over 34,000 different Christian groups exist. If the gospel breaks down barriers and creates unity, then what does it mean that Christianity is fractured into



over 34,000 different groups? Could it mean that Christianity is not promoting the true gospel but a false gospel?

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

The Remedy – Dr. Jennings’ New Testament Paraphrase– ALL GLITCHES NOW FIXED in the IOS Version! So please UPDATE to latest version.

The Journal of the Watcher is now available as a movie in itunes for everyone without ios or android, you can now get it in itunes.

September 9,10: Dr. Jennings will be speaking at the Baptist Boomer’s Conference in San Antonio, TX.

September 12: Dr. Jennings will be speaking at the Vallejo Dr., CA SDA church.

September 23-26: American Association of Christian Counselors World Convention at Gaylord Opryland Hotel, Nashville TN. Come and Reason will have a booth in the exhibit hall, and Dr. Jennings will be doing a preconference workshop and regular conference presentation, as well as commencement speaker for Light University graduation.

October 24: Dr. Jennings will be speaking in Puyallup, WA.

January 9, 2016: Dr. Jennings will be speaking at the Carmichael SDA church in Sacramento, California.