

Acts 8:29

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then the Spirit said unto Philip, Go near, and join thyself to this chariot.

Analysis

The Spirit's direct command—'Go near, and join thyself to this chariot'—demonstrates divine orchestration of evangelism. The Greek *proselthon* (draw near) indicates purposeful approach. This Ethiopian eunuch's salvation fulfills Isaiah 56:3-5's promise that eunuchs won't be excluded from God's people, and anticipates the gospel reaching 'the uttermost part of the earth' (Acts 1:8). The Spirit's guidance shows evangelism isn't random but sovereignly directed. Philip's immediate obedience (8:30) models responsiveness to the Spirit's leading. Reformed theology sees here God's effectual calling—the Spirit prepares both messenger and hearer, ensuring the elect hear the gospel at the appointed time.

Historical Context

The Ethiopian eunuch, likely a high-ranking treasury official, traveled 1,200 miles to worship in Jerusalem despite Deuteronomic law excluding eunuchs from the assembly (Deuteronomy 23:1). His reading Isaiah 53 while returning shows genuine spiritual hunger. Philip's meeting him wasn't coincidence but divine appointment. Early tradition says he evangelized Ethiopia, establishing Christianity there. This conversion demonstrates the gospel transcending ethnic, social, and physical barriers that previously excluded people from covenant community.

Related Passages

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. How sensitive are you to the Holy Spirit's promptings to share the gospel with specific people?
2. What barriers—social, ethnic, or circumstantial—might be preventing you from obeying the Spirit's evangelistic leading?

Interlinear Text

εἶπεν	δὲ	τὸ	πνεῦμα	τῷ	Φιλίππῳ	Πρόσελθε	καὶ
said	Then	G3588	the Spirit	G3588	unto Philip	Go near	and
G2036	G1161		G4151		G5376	G4334	G2532
κολλήθητι	τῷ	ἄρματι	τούτῳ				
join thyself to	G3588	chariot	this				
G2853		G716	G5129				

Additional Cross-References

Acts 10:19 (Spirit): While Peter thought on the vision, the Spirit said unto him, Behold, three men seek thee.

Acts 11:12 (Spirit): And the Spirit bade me go with them, nothing doubting. Moreover these six brethren accompanied me, and we entered into the man's house: