


MAN WITH A MESSAGE

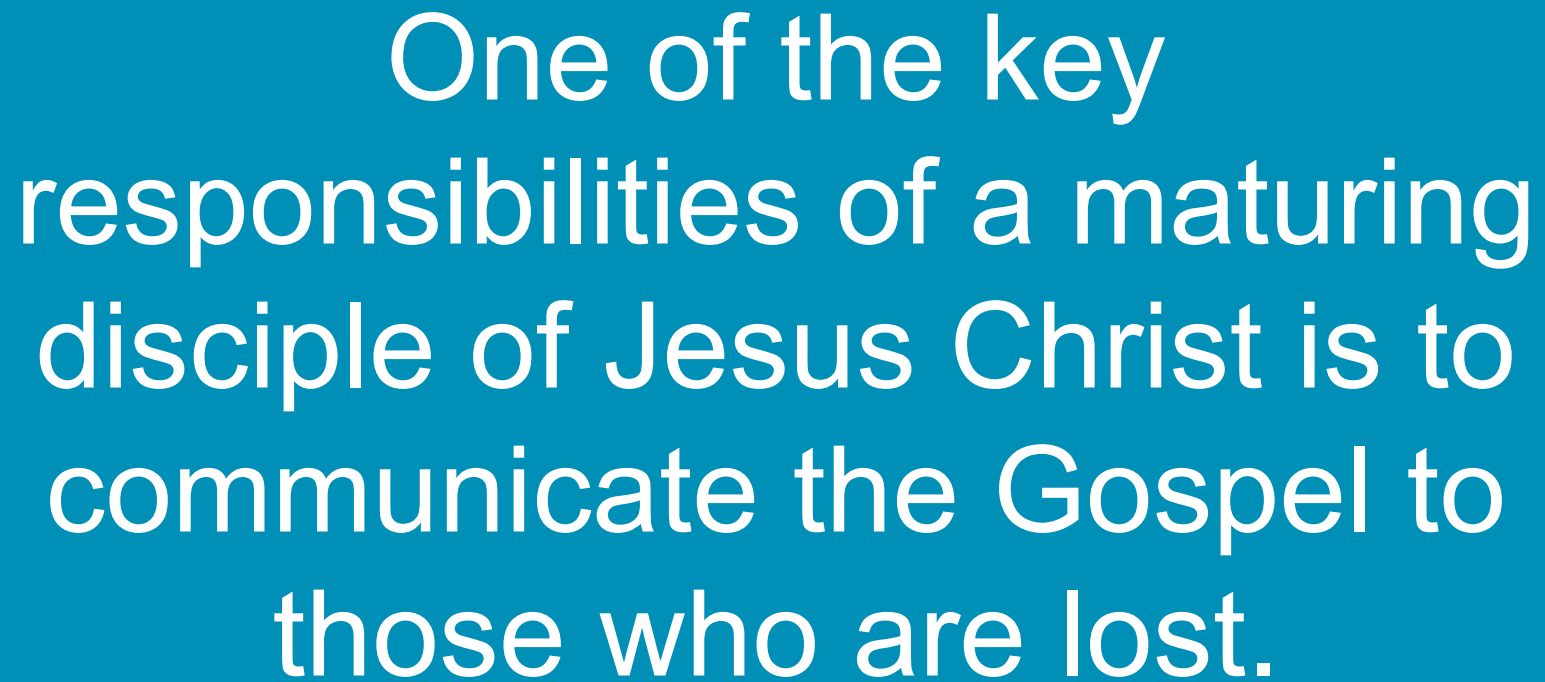
Dr. John Tolson



THE TOLSON GROUP . COM

A black and white photograph of a desert landscape. In the foreground, a paved road with white dashed lines curves through a dry, rocky terrain. In the background, there are rugged mountains under a clear sky. A large, solid blue trapezoidal shape is superimposed over the center of the image, containing white text.

It is difficult to
focus on what
the Lord wants
for our lives.




One of the key responsibilities of a maturing disciple of Jesus Christ is to communicate the Gospel to those who are lost.

OBSERVATION # 1

Survey says:

**98% of all church members have never led
another person to Christ.**

A black and white photograph of a desert landscape. A paved road with white lane markings stretches from the bottom center towards the horizon. The road is flanked by arid, rocky terrain with sparse vegetation. In the background, there are rugged mountains under a clear sky. A large, solid blue oval is superimposed over the center of the image, containing white text.

For the most part,
the church is an
immobilized
Army.

OBSERVATION # 2

If you love people, you will tell them about Jesus.

**We need a deep love for those who
don't know Christ.**

OBSERVATION # 3

The longer a person is a Christian, the fewer non-Christian contacts we cultivate.

- **We stay in the Holy Huddle – or go back to the Unholy Huddle.**
- **Make “Crucial Appointments”**

OBSERVATION # 4

We are reluctant to communicate our faith for a number of reasons.

- **Lack of skills...**
- **Fear of a negative reaction...**
- **Don't see the importance of it...**

OBSERVATION # 4

- **Lack of compassion...**
- **Bad experience in the past...**
- **You say: “I’ll just live the faith, not speak it.”**
- **We don’t know Christ for real...**

OBSERVATION # 5

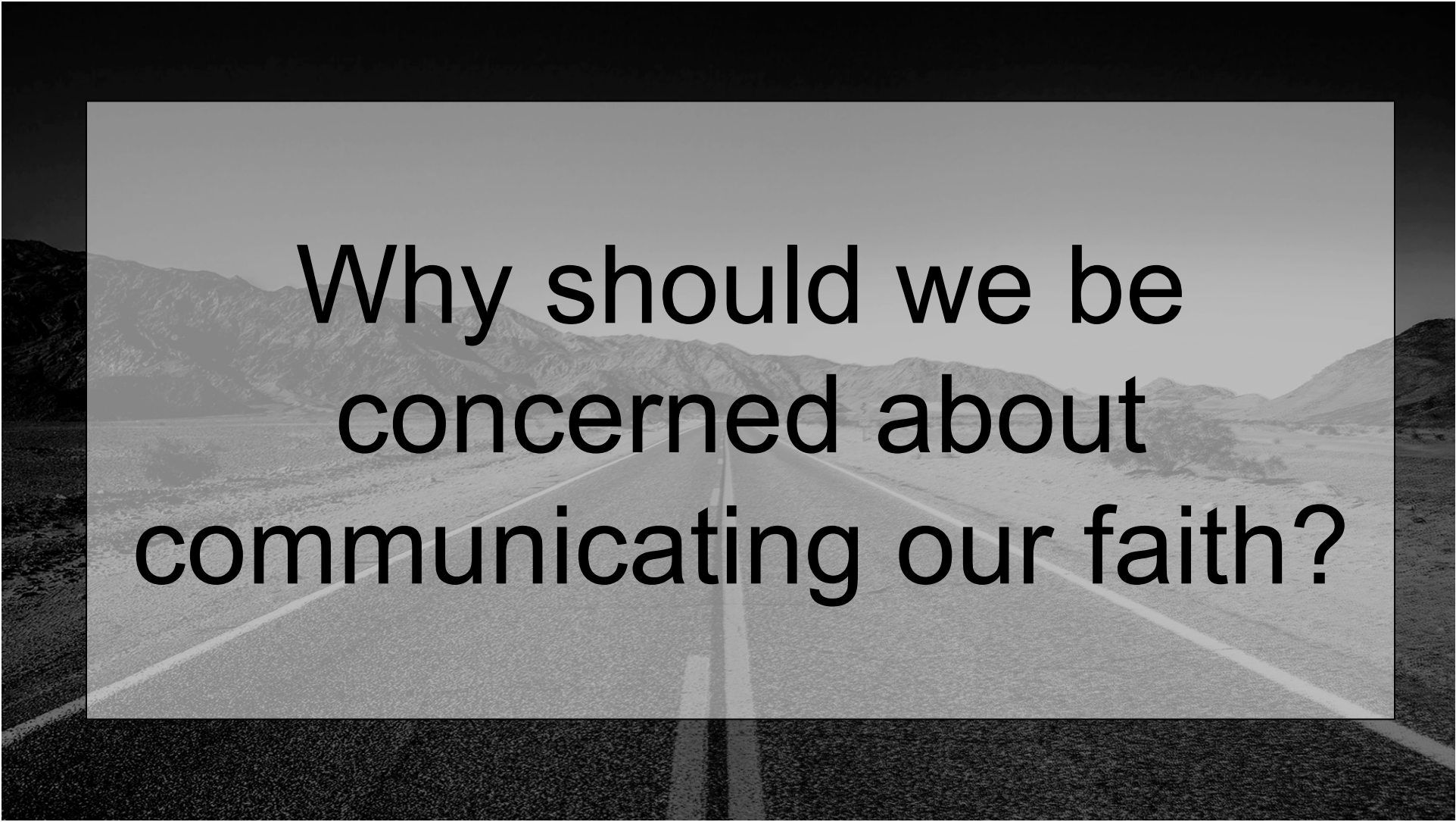
If you love Jesus Christ...you will want others to know Him and love Him.

Not because we feel like it, but because we are obedient.

OBSERVATION # 6

When we don't communicate our faith, the *enemy* rejoices.

The enemy does not want you to point others to JESUS.



Why should we be
concerned about
communicating our faith?

Communicating Our Faith

1. People are eternally separated from God without Christ.

“And anyone who believes in God’s Son has eternal life. Anyone who doesn’t obey the Son will never experience eternal life but remains under God’s angry judgment.” John 3:36



Communicating Our Faith

2. Over 60% of the people in the greater Dallas area are uncommitted to Christ and unchurched.
3. God has chosen to work through people to bring others to Himself.

Communicating Our Faith

4. Christ commanded all true believers to communicate His love.

Acts 1:8

Luke 18:8



Communicating Our Faith

The Lord must
wonder what we
are doing.



Communicating Our Faith

4. Christ commanded all true believers to communicate His love.
5. We will miss out on the “greatest thrill” on earth for a Christian.



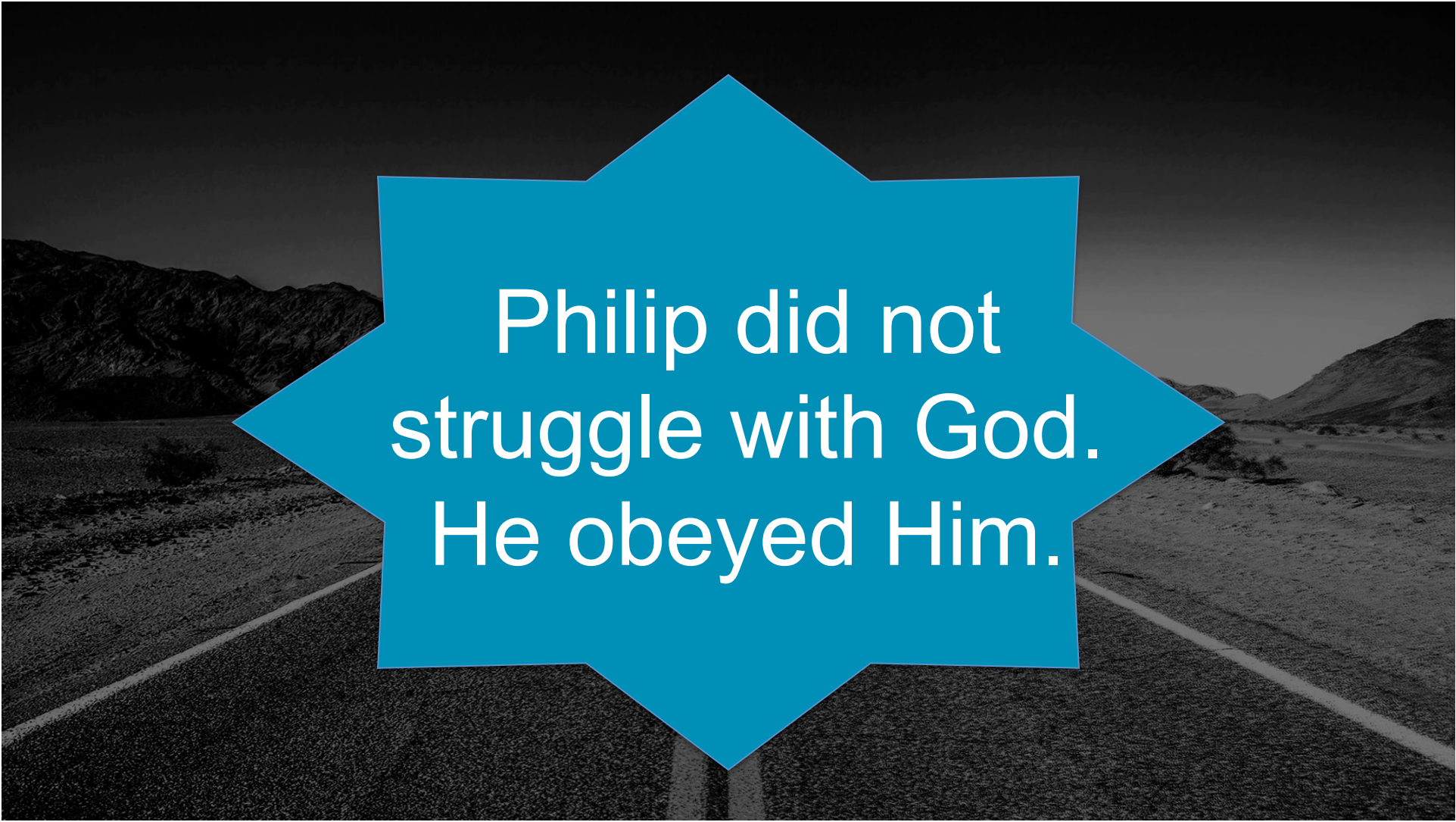
6 Keys For Communicating Your Faith

KEY # 1 – SENSITIVITY

Sensitivity – Acts 8:26-27a

A. A Strange Command

- Out of the blue, God called a man – Philip
- Philip was doing God's assignment successfully...but God had another assignment in mind.
- Philip was alert and ready to respond.



Philip did not
struggle with God.
He obeyed Him.

KEY # 1 – SENSITIVITY

- With very little information, he obeyed.

As you walk closely with Jesus,
you will develop sensitivity to
His leading.

KEY # 1 – SENSITIVITY

Sensitivity – Acts 8:26-27a

B. God Knew The Details...He knew:

- All about the Ethiopian
- His position and prominence
- Why he had traveled to Jerusalem
- The hunger in his heart
- That he was on his way home

KEY # 1 – SENSITIVITY

Sensitivity – Acts 8:26-27a

B. God Knew The Details...He knew:

- He was traveling by chariot
- Exactly where he was in the desert
- What he was reading

KEY # 1 – SENSITIVITY

Sensitivity – Acts 8:26-27a

C. This Ethiopian proselyte to Judaism would influence the great pagan Gentile world.



KEY # 1 – SENSITIVITY

Sensitivity – Acts 8:26-27a

D. Philip had a passion to reach people with the Gospel.

You will get bored with religious Christianity if you don't communicate your faith.

KEY # 2 – AVAILABILITY

Availability – Acts 8:27b-29

Sensitivity will lead to availability.

God is not so much
interested in your ability as
He is in your availability.

KEY # 2 – AVAILABILITY

Availability – Acts 8:27b-29

A. What hinders availability?

- Overcrowded schedules
- Not understanding the high priority of telling others about Jesus Christ.

KEY # 2 – AVAILABILITY

Availability – Acts 8:27b-29

B. What was going on?

- The eunuch's social status:
 - A political leader from the 3rd world.
 - Secretary of the Treasury of the Candace Dynasty.

KEY # 2 – AVAILABILITY

Availability – Acts 8:27b-29

B. What was going on?

- The eunuch's spiritual state:
 - He had been to church in Jerusalem.
 - He didn't get what he needed, but he was seeking.

KEY # 2 – AVAILABILITY

Availability – Acts 8:27b-29

B. What was going on?

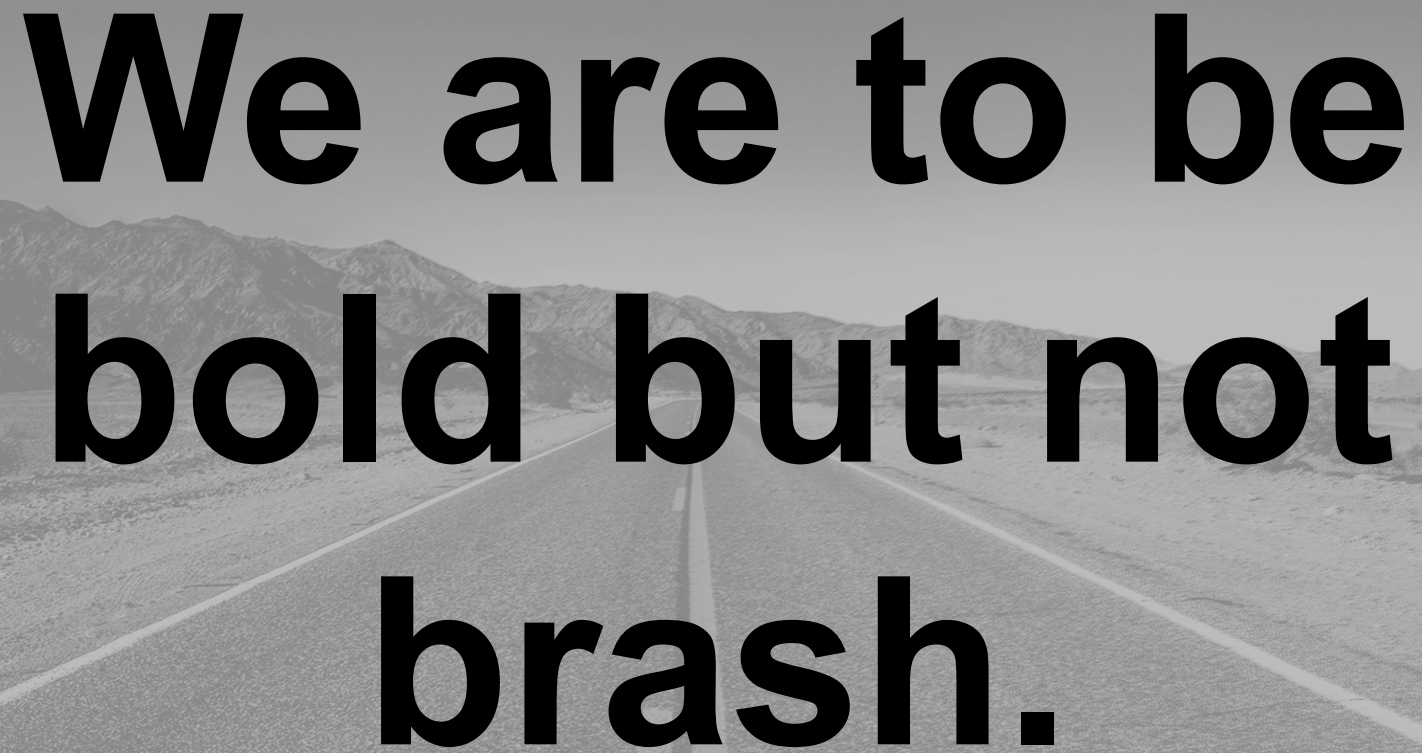
- He was reading Isaiah 53.
- The Spirit prodded Philip... “GO FOR IT!”
- Philip was obedient and it paid off.

PHILIP WAS AVAILABLE.

KEY # 3 – INITIATIVE

Initiative – Acts 8:30

- Philip took the initiative
- He was running next to the chariot.
- He proceeded with caution.
- He used: Patience, Intelligence, Skill
- He asked a question: learn to frame good questions.



**We are to be
bold but not
brash.**

KEY # 4 – TACTFULNESS


Tactfulness – Acts 8:30-34

- Notice the flow...
 - Philip listened.
 - The Ethiopian confessed his ignorance.
 - Philip awaited an invitation to come aboard.
 - He started where the man was and led him to Jesus.

KEY # 4 – TACTFULNESS

Tactfulness – Acts 8:30-34

- Notice the flow...
 - He didn't make the man feel foolish.
 - He showed genuine concern.
 - He upheld the dignity of the Ethiopian.
 - He was courteous – I Peter 3:8

A black and white photograph of a desert landscape. In the foreground, a paved road with white dashed lines leads into the distance. The middle ground shows a flat, arid plain with sparse, low-lying vegetation. In the background, there are rugged, rocky mountains under a clear sky. A large, solid blue trapezoidal shape is superimposed over the center of the image, containing white text.

There has never been
a human being
convinced of Christ
by human argument.

KEY # 4 – TACTFULNESS

Tactfulness – Acts 8:30-34

- You don't lead a person to Christ through logic.
- You declare the essentials of "joyful message."

PHILIP DISPLAYED TACTFULNESS.

KEY # 5 – PRECISENESS

Preciseness – Acts 8:34-35, 37-39

- Philip used:
 - No threats
 - No theological mumbo-jumbo

KEY # 5 – PRECISENESS

Preciseness – Acts 8:34-35, 37-39

A. Philip's focus was Jesus

- His person
- His work
- His love for sinners
- His perfect life
- His sacrificial death

KEY # 5 – PRECISENESS

Preciseness – Acts 8:34-35, 37-39

A. Philip's focus was Jesus

- His resurrection
- His offer of forgiveness and security
- His offer of purpose, hope and favor

KEY # 5 – PRECISENESS

Preciseness – Acts 8:34-35, 37-39

- He didn't *focus* on...
 - The institutional church
 - A particular denomination
 - Religion
 - Theological double-talk

KEY # 5 – PRECISENESS

Preciseness – Acts 8:34-35, 37-39

B. Come to the point!

- What is a Christian?

C. The result... (Acts 8:37-39)

1. The eunuch trusted Christ.
2. The eunuch confessed his faith (baptized)
3. The eunuch rejoiced.



JOY

is the outcome of
genuine conversion.



**Philip
displayed
preciseness.**

KEY # 6 – DECISIVENESS

Decisiveness – Acts 8:36-39

- The eunuch wanted to be baptized.
- Philip put first things first...
 - Acceptance of the message of Christ.
 - Public acknowledgement of faith.
- You must ask a decisive question...



Is there any reason
why you should not
accept Christ?



**Philip was
decisive.**

6 Keys In Communicating Your Faith

- Sensitivity** – to the Lord's leading
- Availability** – to be ready to move
- Initiative** – use appropriate approach
- Tactfulness** – be courteous
- Preciseness** – focus on Christ
- Decisiveness** – speak of receiving Christ

ACTION

- 1. Pray that God will bring people into your life that you can point to Him.**
- 2. Pray for that opportunity and for that person.**
- 3. Build a relationship.**
- 4. Be creative.**