

# FEASTING ON THE FAITHFULNESS OF GOD

## Faithful in Helping You TEACH

Acts 8:26-40

### PRAYER FOR GOING BACK TO SCHOOL

School starting – mix of emotions – Excitement, fear, confusion, maybe all of those together

However you feel about it, folks, remember, our feelings are not what matter most.

What matters most is what God wants to do with us and others who are the objects of His love and care.

So, we are going to spend time in prayer this morning for all who are going to school or sending loved ones to school.

First, I want all the children (preschool through sixth grade) beginning school this week or next, and their parents and grandparents to stand.

**Karen Claunch, Children's Minister** - lead prayer.

Second, I want all the students (seventh grade through college) beginning school this week or soon, and their parents and grandparents to stand.

**Mark Bateman, Student Minister** is going to pray for you.

Now I want all the teachers and those who work in our public or private schools in any capacity, and those who will be doing home schooling in any way, I want you to stand.

I, **Mike Claunch, Pastor** am going to pray for you.

INTRODUCTION: Thank you! Church family, let us keep praying for the next several weeks regularly and intensely.

The title of my message today as we continue to explore and rejoice in the faithfulness of God is Faithful in Helping You TEACH.

But some of you are thinking, "But I'm not a teacher!" But friend, that's what Philip said, and listen to how God helped him teach.

Now this morning, I am not going to read a text and give you two or three points about it. I am going to walk you through the wonderful biblical story of Philip so that every one of you, from the youngest heading off to school to the oldest of you teaching in the classroom or the living room,

- can be the teacher God wants you to be,
- teaching the most important truth that can ever be taught,
- that will make more of a difference in the people who receive your teaching than anything else they will ever learn.

<p><b>Acts 8:26 NKJV</b></p> <p>Now an angel of the Lord spoke to Philip, saying, "Arise and go toward the south along the road which goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." This is desert.</p>	<p>The Lord will send you where He wants you to go.</p> <p>Where God wants you to go is not always a pleasant place. (Illustration – BR, Aleshandria)</p>
<p><b>Acts 8:27–28 NKJV</b></p> <p>27 So he arose and went. And behold, a man of Ethiopia, a eunuch of great authority under Candace the queen of the Ethiopians, who had charge of all her treasury, and had come to Jerusalem to worship,</p> <p>28 was returning. And sitting in his chariot, he was reading Isaiah the prophet.</p>	<p>You never know who the Lord has for you to talk to – great or lowly, old or young.</p> <p>Fear of witnessing cold turkey? If the Lord leads you to talk to someone, then the conversation is never cold turkey!</p> <p>God was preparing this man. Do you know how strange it was for him to be reading the scroll of Isaiah? In by Bible Isaiah is 68 pages. This was handwritten.</p>
<p><b>Acts 8:29–31 NKJV</b></p> <p>29 Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go near and overtake this chariot."</p> <p>30 So Philip ran to him, and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah, and said, "Do you understand what you are reading?"</p> <p>31 And he said, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he asked Philip to come up and sit with him.</p>	<p>The Lord shows Philip who He wants him to talk to.</p> <p>Don't be hesitant. Run to the opportunity. The Lord is with you!</p> <p>Listen – he heard him reading Isaiah.</p> <p>Note the use of questions.</p> <p>Go only so far as the person you are talking to wants you to go. The Holy Spirit must motivate.</p>

<p>Acts 8:32–33 NKJV</p> <p>32 The place in the Scripture which he read was this: “He was led as a sheep to the slaughter; And as a lamb before its shearer is silent, So He opened not His mouth.</p> <p>33 In His humiliation His justice was taken away, And who will declare His generation? For His life is taken from the earth.”</p>	<p>Again, see what God is doing.</p> <p>This is the gospel in Isaiah!</p> <p>800 years before Christ. The gospel is so clear. Critics said the NT Church changed Isaiah to add this.</p> <p>Dead Sea Scrolls – late 1940’s. Among these were many portions of OT. Whole scroll of Isaiah was found also. 100s of years before Christ came to the earth. God put the gospel in Isaiah 53.</p>
<p>Acts 8:34–35 NKJV</p> <p>34 So the eunuch answered Philip and said, “I ask you, of whom does the prophet say this, of himself or of some other man?”</p> <p>35 Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning at this Scripture, preached Jesus to him.</p>	<p>We will finish this sermon next week.</p>

God is sending all of you who are going back to school as teachers of the gospel. Your schools whether large complexes full of teachers and students, or the neighborhood where your home school is located, are filled with people God is working with.

He wants you to say, “I am ready and willing!”