

## Accelerate

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### Sermon Synopsis

In this episode of World Impact, Dr. Billy Wilson speaks from Oral Roberts University's newly remodeled College of Business, inviting believers to consider what he calls "supernatural acceleration." Drawing from Acts 8, where Philip was suddenly transported by the Spirit, Dr. Wilson shows how God can move His people forward in ways that surpass natural effort or human limitation. This message is directed especially to those who feel stuck, weary, or unsure of their next step, reminding them that the Holy Spirit is still able to bring transformation and fresh momentum.

Dr. Wilson unpacks four principles from Philip's story that position believers for this kind of acceleration. First is focus—placing God's heart for people at the center of our lives, just as Jesus did in His encounters with individuals and as Philip did in his ministry to the Ethiopian eunuch. Second is flexibility, the willingness to be redirected by God even when it means leaving comfort or apparent success, like Philip leaving revival crowds to go into the desert. Third is obedience, the courage to act on God's instructions even when they are difficult or inconvenient. Finally, Dr. Wilson emphasizes dependence on the Holy Spirit, the source of true power and progress for the church.

The sermon also engages with today's culture of rapid change. ORU's Executive Vice President Mike Mathews contributes insights about accelerating technology, including artificial intelligence and virtual reality. While acknowledging these developments, Dr. Wilson reminds listeners that spiritual gifts like faith, hope, and love remain uniquely vital and irreplaceable. The message challenges believers not to shrink back from the speed of the world but to meet it with Spirit-empowered faithfulness.

Dr. Wilson concludes by encouraging every believer to trust God's timing and lean fully on the Spirit. When believers focus on God's priorities, remain flexible, obey His call, and depend on His presence, they can experience supernatural acceleration—moving forward in faith and carrying the gospel further than human strength could take them.

## Sermon Highlights

- Focus your heart on what is important to God — people matter deeply to Him, just as Philip focused on the Ethiopian eunuch, opening the way for a great revival that influenced a whole continent.
- Be flexible and nimble in following God's call — like Philip and David, do not cling to the past or to your own plans but be willing to move where the Spirit leads, even when it means saying yes to difficult or unexpected paths.
- Obey God's difficult commands — saying yes to challenging tasks positions you to be accelerated by the Holy Spirit, just as Philip obeyed leaving a great revival to go to an empty desert place and saw miracles unfold.
- Depend fully on the Holy Spirit — true supernatural acceleration comes by His power, not your own strength; the Spirit is God's 'plane train' that can take you faster and farther in your God-ordained destiny.
- Trust God's perfect timing — even when you feel stuck or slow, God moves in His perfect way; listen to His whispers, act in faith, and He will bring you into your purpose and future at an accelerated pace.

## Scripture Verses

### Acts 8:39-40

When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord suddenly took Philip away, and the eunuch did not see him again, but went on his way rejoicing. Philip, however, appeared at Azotus and traveled about, preaching the gospel in all the towns until he reached Caesarea.

### Isaiah 53

He was despised and rejected by mankind, a man of suffering, and familiar with pain. Like one from whom people hide their faces he was despised, and we held him in low esteem.

### Luke 24:49

I am going to send you what my Father has promised; but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high.

### Acts 2:1-4

When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.

### Mark 12:30-31

Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength. The second is this: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no commandment greater than these.

### 1 Samuel 17:38-40

Then Saul dressed David in his own tunic. He put a coat of armor on him and a bronze helmet on his head. David fastened on his sword over the tunic and tried walking around, because he was not used to them. 'I cannot go in these,' he said to Saul, 'because I am not used to them.' So he took them off. Then he took his staff in his hand, chose five smooth stones from the stream, put them in the pouch of his shepherd's bag and, with his sling in his hand, approached the Philistine.

### 1 Samuel 17:48-50

As the Philistine moved closer to attack him, David ran quickly toward the battle line to meet him. Reaching into his bag and taking out a stone, he slung it and struck the Philistine on the forehead. The stone sank into his forehead, and he fell facedown on the ground. So David triumphed over the Philistine with a sling and a stone; without a sword in his hand he struck down the Philistine and killed him.

### Acts 6:5-6

This proposal pleased the whole group. They chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit; also Philip, Procorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolas from Antioch, a convert to Judaism. They presented these men to the apostles, who prayed and laid their hands on them.

## Quotes

- "If you want to get there quickly, you simply get on the plane train of the Holy Spirit." - Dr. Billy Wilson
- "The first step in being accelerated into your future is to focus your heart on what's important to God." - Dr. Billy Wilson
- "You've got to remain flexible and nimble if you're going to see God accelerate you." - Dr. Billy Wilson
- "Don't be afraid to say yes to the difficult command of God, because when you obey, the desert will blossom and miracles will happen." - Dr. Billy Wilson
- "When you depend on the Holy Spirit, you are positioning yourself to be accelerated forward, faster and further than you could ever go on your own." - Dr. Billy Wilson

# Bible Study

## Objectives

- To understand how the Holy Spirit accelerates our spiritual walk and life purpose.
- To learn from Philip's example of obedience and flexibility in God's calling.
- To explore how focusing on what is important to God positions us for divine acceleration.
- To embrace reliance on the Holy Spirit rather than our own strength.
- To be challenged to say 'yes' to God's difficult commands and move forward in faith.

## Reading and Reflections

- Acts 8:39-40 (NIV) describes the miraculous transportation of Philip by the Holy Spirit, illustrating supernatural acceleration.
- Luke 24:49 reminds us to wait for the power from on high before stepping into God's plan.
- Isaiah 53 is referenced as the scripture the Ethiopian eunuch sought to understand, highlighting the importance of divine revelation.
- Acts 6 and Acts 8 chronicle Philip's transition from deacon to evangelist, demonstrating flexibility in God's assignments.
- The story of David and Goliath (1 Samuel 17) exemplifies the power of using what God has equipped us with instead of relying on human strength.

## Key Observations

- God's acceleration often follows radical obedience and spiritual focus, even when it seems counterintuitive or difficult.
- Focusing on 'one' person is powerful; God uses individual faithfulness to unlock salvation for multitudes.
- Flexibility is essential; holding too tightly to plans or comfort zones hinders God's movement.
- The Holy Spirit acts as our divine 'plane train,' moving us beyond natural limits.
- Technological and societal acceleration around us calls the church to spiritual acceleration through the Spirit.

## Personal Reflections

- Reflect on moments where God asked you to step out in faith, even when you felt uncertain.
- Consider how often you focus your heart on God's priorities versus your own agenda.
- Examine areas where inflexibility has kept you from moving forward in God's plan.
- Think about times the Holy Spirit has prompted you and whether you have obeyed promptly.
- Recall how God has accelerated your life when you trusted Him and yielded control.

## Lessons for Daily Life

- Love God and love others as the foundation for all decision-making and ministry involvement.
- Say 'yes' to God's nudges even when the path seems difficult or unclear.
- Remain flexible and open to God's leading, knowing He orchestrates perfect timing.
- Depend on the Holy Spirit's power rather than your own abilities or resources.
- Recognize that small obedience can unlock large spiritual breakthroughs for yourself and others.

## Practical Applications

- Identify one person God is prompting you to reach out to with the gospel or encouragement this week.
- Pray daily for the Holy Spirit's guidance and power to accelerate your spiritual growth and mission.
- Practice flexibility by being willing to adjust your plans when God redirects you.
- Fast or establish a time of quiet meditation to listen for the Holy Spirit's voice on your next steps.
- Engage in a community or church ministry where you can impact others one person at a time.

## Challenges for the Week

- Say 'yes' to a difficult task or call you have been hesitant about, trusting the Spirit to empower you.
- Focus your heart intentionally on what God values—people and His kingdom—above personal convenience.
- Stay attentive to the Holy Spirit's prompting throughout the day, responding immediately.
- Avoid resisting change; actively embrace flexibility as God accelerates you.
- Share your testimony of God's acceleration in your life with at least one person.

## Further Study

- Study the life and ministry of Philip in Acts chapters 6-8 for lessons on obedience and acceleration.
- Explore the concept of the baptism of the Holy Spirit and empowerment for ministry (Acts 1:8, Acts 2).
- Read about David's faith and flexibility during his battle with Goliath (1 Samuel 17).
- Examine Jesus' teaching on loving God and others (Mark 12:30-31).
- Research modern examples of how the Holy Spirit is moving in the world today.

## Closing Prayer

Heavenly Father, we thank You for Your Holy Spirit who moves mightily and accelerates our lives beyond what we could achieve in our own strength. Help us to focus our hearts on what matters most to You—that every person knows Your love and salvation. Grant us the flexibility to follow Your leading wherever You take us and the courage to say 'yes' even when the path is hard. Empower us to depend fully on Your Spirit, so that we may be propelled into our destiny, fulfilling Your purpose in a rapidly changing world. Lord, we ask for Your supernatural acceleration in our lives today. Take us on Your 'plane train' and let us run with faith and momentum to overcome every giant. In Jesus' mighty name, Amen.

# Daily Devotionals

## Day 1

### Scripture Verse

Acts 8:39-40 (NIV) - "When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord suddenly took Philip away, and the eunuch did not see him again, but went on his way rejoicing. Philip, however, appeared at Azotus and traveled about, preaching the gospel in all the towns until he reached Caesarea."

### Reflection

Imagine the scene: Philip has just baptized the Ethiopian eunuch in a place that might have seemed desolate and distant—the desert of Gaza. Suddenly, the Spirit of the Lord takes Philip away instantly to another city, Azotus. This supernatural acceleration reveals God's extraordinary power to move us fast and far beyond our own capacity. What sets Philip apart? It wasn't his strength or status but his willingness to focus on what mattered to God—one person at a time. In today's fast-paced and ever-changing world, like the rapid knowledge and technological advancements Dr. Billy Wilson described, we often feel overwhelmed. But just like Philip, we can be positioned to accelerate God's work through us by focusing on His heart: people. One person, one moment, one act of obedience can unlock multitudes for the Kingdom. Jesus taught us this repeatedly—from the woman at the well to Paul the Apostle's mission to Europe. Think about your own daily walk. Where is God asking you to focus your heart? Perhaps it is on a neighbor, a coworker, or even a stranger who needs to experience God's love. Just as the Ethiopian eunuch was deeply searching for understanding in Isaiah 53, many around us are yearning for spiritual truth and hope. Philip's readiness to listen and respond to the Spirit's prompting led to the first African conversion, eventually unlocking an entire continent for Christ. Let this truth sink deep: God often uses single moments and singular focuses to spark revival. When you take a step to engage with God's heart for one individual, you position yourself on His 'plane train'—an accelerated path designed to take you further than your own efforts ever could. In a world that doubles in knowledge every 12 hours, what if you let the Holy Spirit guide you daily to impact the lives uniquely placed in front of you? Take a moment. Reflect on the power of focusing on what matters most to God—people. What distractions can you lay aside today so that your heart aligns with His? Remember, acceleration doesn't always come from doing more but from doing what God prioritizes.

### Prayer

Holy Spirit, help me to focus my heart on what matters most to You—people. Open my eyes to those You are placing right before me. Give me the boldness and love to minister as Philip did, trusting You to accelerate Your purpose through my obedience. Amen.

## Day 2

### Scripture Verse

Luke 24:49 (NIV) - "I am going to send you what my Father has promised; but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high."

### Reflection

The promise of being "clothed with power from on high" speaks of the Holy Spirit's supernatural empowerment. Philip's story teaches us that acceleration in God's kingdom often requires us to wait, then step out in complete dependence on the Spirit's power. Consider Philip's journey. He began humbly, serving tables as a deacon. Persecution scattered believers, yet he remained flexible and obedient, eventually finding himself alone in the desert—a place that felt like emptiness, far from the revival in Samaria. It was there God called him to a difficult mission—to reach one man no one else might have noticed. Philip obeyed, and the Spirit transported him beyond natural means. This teaches us that being accelerated by the Spirit isn't about rushing ahead in your own strength but about putting off the heavy 'armor' of our past, plans, or expectations and embracing God's flexible, Spirit-led movement. David's rejection of Saul's heavy armor in favor of his trusted sling and stones is a powerful illustration. Rigid attachments slow us down; nimbleness frees us to run toward our giants with momentum, propelled by faith. Today, ask yourself: are you holding too tightly to old plans or comfort zones? The 21st-century world is accelerating in technology and knowledge, but that mustn't outpace our walk with God. Instead, be willing to set down the familiar and trust the Spirit to clothe you with power. By depending on the Holy Spirit, you become a 'super Christian,' equipped to navigate challenges and opportunities beyond normal human ability. Imagine your life energized by the same Spirit who instantly transported Philip. What mountains could you overcome? What opportunities might you embrace? Flexibility with God's leading unlocks His supernatural acceleration in your life.

### Prayer

Father, teach me to be flexible and dependent on the Holy Spirit. Remove anything that hinders my obedience and keep me nimble, so I may run with the momentum You provide. Clothe me with power from on high, to walk boldly into the future You've prepared. Amen.



## Day 3

### Scripture Verse

Psalm 37:23-24 (NIV) - “The Lord makes firm the steps of the one who delights in him; though he may stumble, he will not fall, for the Lord upholds him with his hand.”

### Reflection

Saying 'yes' to difficult commands is never easy. Philip faced this when God called him to leave the abundance of revival in Samaria and head into the empty desert to seek one man. It was a challenge that could have felt like a step backward. Yet Philip obeyed, and God used that obedience to bring about a miracle that echoed through history. Life's deserts—times of uncertainty, challenge, or seeming emptiness—can feel like places where progress halts. But the Bible repeatedly shows us that God's greatest works often bloom in these deserts. The Lord does not promise a life without challenges but promises to uphold us in every step. Think of a time when you faced a hard decision to follow God's leading. How did you respond? Did fear or doubt slow you down? Or did you, like Philip, say 'yes' to the Spirit's prompting, trusting that God was working behind the scenes? Remember David's confidence to face Goliath with just a sling and five stones because he trusted God's power, not human strength or protection. Your tough 'yes' could be the key to unlocking God's accelerated blessing in your life. The Spirit's power is not a gentle breeze but a mighty train, ready to carry you forward when you're willing to be obedient, even when it's hard. You might feel stuck right now, but take heart—God holds your hand. Even if you stumble, He will not let you fall. With every step of obedience amid difficulty, you position yourself for divine acceleration, just as Philip did. Your desert may soon bloom into a highway of blessing, fruitfulness, and supernatural breakthrough.

### Prayer

Lord, grant me courage to say 'yes' to Your difficult commands. Help me to trust You in the deserts of life and depend fully on Your sustaining hand. May Your Spirit accelerate my path to fulfill the destiny You have for me. Amen.

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