

## Equipped 7 - The Word that works - Acts 8:26-40

6<sup>th</sup> June 2021

### Introduction

How confident are you about the power of the Bible to do God's work?

Reasons why we might not be:

1,

2,

The Bible – the strength of the Spirit (Ephesians 6:17). We need to have confidence in it.

### The Teaching

#### **A Bible snapshot: Philip and the Ethiopian (Acts 8:26-40)**

> Philip: Deacon appointed by the apostles in Acts 6:1-7

> Some with “gift of evangelism” (Ephesians 4:11); we are all to “give a reason for the hope that we have” (1 Peter 3:15).

> Role of persecution – Acts 8:1-6

> verse 26 – 40 – Things you're struck by:

Summary: “God uses a normal person and the Holy Spirit in the power of the Holy Spirit to bring someone to faith in Jesus Christ.”

### Thinking more deeply about the Bible

Evangelical Alliance statement of faith, Article 3: “The divine inspiration and supreme authority of the Old and New Testament Scriptures, which are the written Word of God - fully trustworthy for faith and conduct.”

> *Breathed out by God* (inspiration, 2 Timothy 3:16, 2 Peter 1:20-21)

100% written by humans, 100% written by God.

Purpose: A love letter; a long story; one story.

Focus: Jesus Christ. The Bible - “The cradle in which Christ is laid” (Martin Luther).

Why's it written down?

> *Supreme authority*

This is why we go to the Bible to learn about the Bible!

Other authorities: The Church, government, human reason, human feelings and experience, media / social media, science.

When there's a conflict – The Bible has authority.

> *Clear*

One meaning, that can be understood. (Psalm 19:7, 119:130)

> *Necessary* (2 Timothy 3:16-17, Psalm 119:105)

> *Sufficient / Enough* (2 Timothy 3:16-17)

One thing is essential for salvation and Christian life – Christ as revealed in the Bible.

### Thinking it through / Applying to ourselves

Our weapon in a spiritual battle – Use it!

Make it a priority to hear and read the Bible

Expect some to reject the Bible

Expect some to hear the Word and be saved

Next step?

Not yet a Christian? Read the Bible!

### Taking it further

*Books*

Christian Beliefs - Wayne Grudem (chapter 1 What is the Bible?)

Foundations of Faith - Article 6

*Daily Bible reading*

[www.anlabychurches.org.uk](http://www.anlabychurches.org.uk) – Go to Resources / Daily Bible Reading

*Reading the Bible with someone else*

Word one to one - [www.theword121.com](http://www.theword121.com)

### To reflect on / think about

> What undermines your confidence in the power / truth of the Bible? What truths from today's sermon help with that?

> How can you make use of the Bible, the sword of the Spirit, in your personal Christian life and in sharing the good news with others?

> Pray about these things.