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**Dallas Bivins** 

Three Great Conversions Acts 8-10

"But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and Samaria, and to the end of the earth" (Acts 1:8)

*If we consider* WHERE TO GO, *we take* MISSION TRIPS *If we consider* WHO TO GO TO, *we are* MISSIONAL

3 Gospel-changing conversions: Acts 8: Philip and the Ethiopian Treasurer Acts 9: Saul on the road to Damascus Acts 10: Peter and the Roman Centurion Cornelius

### Philip and the Ethiopian Treasurer:

Acts 6:5 – Philip is listed after Stephen as one of the 7 servant-deacons Acts 8:4-8 – Philip preaches in Samaria and revival breaks out Acts 9:9-25 – Simon the Sorcerer believes in God, but tries to buy His power

Acts 8:26-40 – Philip is called to the Gaza road to meet the Ethiopian eunuch

- What is Philip doing when God calls him?
- Where had the eunuch been?

Saul on the road to Damascus

Acts 8:1-4 – Saul consents to Stephen's death and made havoc for the church

Acts 9:1-2 – Saul seeks letters to the Synagogues of Damascus Acts 9:3-9 – God confronts Saul

Acts 9:10-19 – Ananias is called to lead Saul to salvation

- How does Saul address God?
- How does Ananias answer God's call?
- How does Ananias greet Saul?

#### **Peter and Cornelius**

Acts 10:1-8 – God calls Cornelius to call Peter Acts 10:9-16 – Peter's vision of unclean animals Acts 10:34-48 – Peter preaches and revival comes

• How did Peter respond to God's call?

# SEVERAL PRINCIPLES REVEALED IN THE 3 CONVERSIONS:

#### God was working BEFORE men got involved

8:28 – The eunuch was reading Scripture – he asked Philip to explain 9:5 – Saul asks God, "Who are you, Lord?" – he knew God 10:2 – Cornelius was a devout man, praying always

# WE DO NOT WORK ALONE IN THE CONVERSION PROCESS – GOD HAS PREPARED THEM ALREADY!

### These conversions were NOT IN A CHURCH MEETING

8:6-8 – Samaria comes to the Lord, but Philip is called away 9:1-2 – Saul asked for letters to persecute Christians in Damascus

Synagogues

10 - Cornelius calls Peter to his house

# WE DON'T HAVE TO GET FOLKS TO CHURCH TO SAVE THEM – GOD CAN SAVE THEM ANYWHERE

### **Everyone has an EXCUSE to NOT BE A WITNESS**

8:20-24 – Simon offers money for God's power – they were tempted 9:13-16 – Ananias is afraid of Saul and questions God 10:14 – Peter responds with, "Not so, Lord!"

### WE DON'T HAVE TO WONDER ABOUT OUR CALLING TO IT – WHEN GOD PRESENTS US WITH AN OPPORTUNITY TO WITNESS

## God's PLAN is PERFECT, whether WE LIKE IT OR NOT!

Why the ETHIOPIAN EUNUCH? (Ham)Check out Genesis 10Why SAUL? (Shem)Why CORNELIUS? (Japheth)

## WE DON'T HAVE TO FIGURE UP ELABORATE PLANS TO WITNESS – GOD ONLY DEMANDS OUR OBEDIENCE –