

Certain consistent aspects of Philip's ministry may be noted. Philip had an itinerant (traveling) type of ministry. His ministry consisted of preaching the gospel of Jesus Christ to non-Christians. In addition, in the two cases where Philip's ministry is described in detail, he baptized the converts. It is safe to assume that the general description of his ministry in Acts 8:40 would also include baptizing converts. This type of ministry is comparable to the present-day general missionary and the present-day evangelist.

There are certain other aspects of Philip's ministry which did not occur in every instance. He performed miracles when ministering to the Samaritans, but he did not when ministering to the eunuch. An angel specifically sent Philip to the eunuch, but there is no mention that an angel sent him to the Samaritans. He was snatched away from the eunuch by the Holy Spirit immediately after baptism, but this did not occur after he baptized the Samaritans. Since these aspects did not all occur on each occasion of ministry, they may be regarded as not basic to the function of an evangelist.

The question naturally arises as to whether an evangelist should be able to perform miracles. Certain items should be noted when considering this.

There is no statement that an evangelist should be able to perform miracles, although there is a definite statement in 2 Corinthians 12:12 that an apostle should be able to do so. In other words, there is a definite teaching statement that an apostle can perform miracles but no teaching at all and only one instance described in which an evangelist performed miracles. . .

On the basis of this one example, admittedly unusual, of an evangelist's ministry we cannot conclude that an evangelist must perform miracles . . .

In conclusion, the evangelist is similar to the modern-day general missionary and modern-day evangelist. An evangelist takes the gospel to unbelievers and baptizes the converts. Many present-day evangelists speak only in church or church-sponsored meetings, and few baptize the converts. Although this may not be in conformity with the New Testament example of Philip, this does not stand as evidence against their gift, since they aim their ministry to reach the unbeliever. The general missionary more nearly approximates the ministry of Philip.

#### E. Exhortation

Romans 12:6, 8 -- "We have different gifts, according to the grace given us. If a man's gift is . . . encouraging, let him encourage"

Edgar (p. 330) states: "We have little information regarding the gift of exhortation . . . . The word exhortation translates the Greek word PARAKALEO. The most probable meaning of this term, in this context, is to urge, exhort, or encourage. It is sometimes