

Building Strong Communities brings Great Joy

Acts 8:4-8 (NKJV)

"Therefore, those who were scattered went everywhere preaching the word. Then Phillip went down to Samaria and preached Christ to them. And the multitudes with one accord heeded the things spoken by Phillip, hearing and seeing the miracles which he did. For unclean spirits, crying with a loud voice, came out of many who were possessed; and many who were paralyzed, and lame were healed. And there was great joy in that city."

God cares about the community; He calls a person or a group of people to go and make a difference in the lives of others.

We are that group of people as we focus on our community

Consider: *Phillip*

I. Understanding his assignment - Acts 6

Philip was selected to serve as a Deacon because of his good reputation, full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom.

Believers of Jesus Christ are disciples and are God's servant leaders.

Leaders must know their priority and be solution oriented and solvers of problems.

When we all understand our assignment in the body of Christ, the word of God spreads, numbers increases and people are obedient to the faith. (Acts 6:7)

We have several ways to help us at Rhema,

1. Completion of your Foundation classes, which included Newcomers and Discipleship, the next class is November 21 and 28.
2. Enrolling in Understanding God class which starts this Monday.
3. Attending our Bible Studies on zoom on Tuesday evening and Wednesday at Noon in person
4. Praying with the Saints every Wednesday at 6:00 pm
5. AND being active with the men's and women's fellowship just to name a few

Let's grow in Christ so that our church will experience growth in advancing the Kingdom of God.

II. Accepting the Charge - Acs 8:4-8

Matthew 28:19a says, *"Therefore, **go** and make disciples of all the nations ..."*

Nations – ethnos – every person, race in the world

Mark 16:15 says, “**Go** into all the world and preach the gospel to everyone”

World – COSMOS – EVERY SYSTEM

Systems – Arts and Entertainment, Business, Church, Congregations and Communities, Direct Media, Education, Family and Government.

Church growth is a result of us obeying the two mandates Jesus gave to us as the Great Commission.

Acts 8:5 says, “*In the midst of persecution, people scattered, yet Phillip holding on to his assignment went down to the city of Samaria and preached Christ to them.*”

We have communities in hostility, lack of employment, being unhoused, adequate grocery stores, high rise of literacy issues and more.

When we tell our stories, proclaim the good news, people will hear and be open to the gospel of Jesus Christ.

III. The Power of Evangelism brings great joy in the city!

The power of the preached word brings salvation, liberation, and demonstration.

Romans 1:16 says, “*For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ; for it is the power of God unto salvation to every that believes; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.*”

Let’s take some **bold** moves and not be ashamed of the gospel.

The word of God will bring about signs, wonders and miracles.

Phillip proclaimed the gospel and people were set freed, people were delivered and healed, and multitudes were saved.

There was great joy, because one ordinary man was empowered by the Holy Spirit, understood who he was, his assignment and brought great **joy** to the city.

Joy – meaning gladness, delight, rejoicing, or an inner sense of joy. The word great emphasizes that this was abundant or extraordinary joy.

As we Reach the Lost, Train for Service and Change our Word, let’s bring GREAT JOY TO OUR CITY!

*Rhema Christian Center
Elder Anita Dawson, Apostle
Saturday, October 3, 2026*