

Pastor Steve Williams | Acts 8 | 06.11.2023
Replay message at: <http://www.northpointeFL.org/messages>

This morning, Pastor Steve Williams took us through Acts 8, which represents a turning point for the early church because it demonstrates how they responded to the tragedy of the death of Stephen. What does this chapter teach us about that response? What does this teach us about our own faith walk?

Watch this message from 2019 (07-14-2019), where Pastor Steve Williams talks about the importance of relationships and how that impacted how the church responded to challenges by exploring the story of Phillip and the Ethiopian in Acts 8.
<https://vimeo.com/348050281>

What part of this message stands out to you? Which challenges you the most?

The Go Deeper for this message from 2019 is below. If time permits, use that below to further reflect on Pastor Steve Williams' message.

Ephesians 2:10 (NLT)

"For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago."

At North Pointe Church, we believe God is real, His Word is true, and has the power to change lives. Do we really believe that is true about our own lives?

- If yes, why don't we build new relationships?
- If yes, why do we allow ourselves to be intimidated?

What does God's Word say about who we are as Children of God?

- We are a New Creation.
 - **2 Corinthians 5:17 (NLT)** "This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!"
- We are a Child Of God.
 - **John 1:12 (NLT)** "To all who believed him and accepted him, he gave the right to become children of God."
- We are God's Masterpiece.
 - **Ephesians 2:10 (NLT)** "For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago."
- We are to be Salt and Light.
 - **Matthew 5:13-16 (NLT)** "You are the salt of the earth. But what good is salt if it has lost its flavor? Can you make it salty again? It will be thrown out and trampled underfoot as worthless. "You are the light of the world—like a city on a hilltop that cannot be hidden. No one lights a lamp and then puts it under a basket. Instead, a lamp is placed on a stand, where it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your good deeds shine out for all to see, so that everyone will praise your heavenly Father."
 - **Ephesians 5:8 (NLT)** "For once you were full of darkness, but now you have light from the Lord. So live as people of light!"
- We are Ambassadors of God.
 - **2 Corinthians 5:20 (NLT)** "We are Christ's ambassadors; God is making his appeal through us."
- We are a Part of a Whole.
 - **Romans 12:4-5 (NLT)** "Just as our bodies have many parts and each part has a special function, so it is with Christ's body. We are many parts of one body, and we all belong to each other."
- We have been Equipped.
 - **Ephesians 1:3 (NLT)** "All praise to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly realms because we are united with Christ."

If we are confident that God is real, His word is true, and has the power to change our life, then we would actually believe that we are loved children of God, who are called to be salt and light to the world, to be ambassadors of God's Kingdom. If we really believe that, we would share that love freely with those around us. Yet we allow fear to get in the way.

- What would the church look like if we loved each other the way Jesus intended?
 - What are some ways the church shows the Love of Jesus?
 - What can we do to change how the church loves others?
- What would our community look like if we loved others the way Jesus intended?
 - What are some ways to love others in our community the way Jesus intended?
 - What can you and your family or small group do together to show the love of Jesus?

The Knowing vs. Doing Gap is the gap between what we know to be true and what we ACTUALLY do with that knowledge. How do we move beyond our fears and cross the Knowing vs. Doing Gap? We start with Hello.

- How can the concept of "Start with Hello" move us from thinking relationships are an important idea and actually starting to make them?