

# Picking Ripe Fruit Acts 8:26-40

I Corinthians 3:6-8

**6 Yo planté, Apolos regó;  
pero el crecimiento lo ha dado Dios.  
7 Así que ni el que planta es algo,  
ni el que riega,  
sino Dios, que da el crecimiento.  
8 Y el que planta y el que riega  
son una misma cosa;  
aunque cada uno recibirá su recompensa  
conforme a su labor.**

## I. The preparation for harvest (evangelism)

- A. The commission to “GO” - Matthew 28:18-20, II Corinthians 5:14-21  
Acts 8:26 And the angel of the Lord spake unto Philip, saying, Arise, and go toward the south unto the way that goeth down from Jerusalem unto Gaza, which is desert.
- B. The response of **obedience** - Romans 10:12-15  
Acts 8:27 And he arose and went: . . .
- C. The **preparation** of the soil - John 16:7-11  
Acts 8:27 . . . and, behold, a man of Ethiopia, an eunuch of great authority under Candace queen of the Ethiopians, who had the charge of all her treasure, and had come to Jerusalem for to worship,
- D. The **planting** of the seed, which is the Word of God - Matthew 13:3-9, 18-23, Luke 8:4-8, 11-15, Romans 1:16, 10:17  
Acts 8:28 Was returning, and sitting in his chariot read Esaias the prophet.
- E. The **available** messenger - I Peter 3:15  
Acts 8:29 Then the Spirit said unto Philip, Go near, and join thyself to this chariot.

I Peter 3:15

But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts:  
and be ready always to give an answer  
to every man that asketh you  
a reason of the hope that is in you  
with meekness and fear:

## II. The process of harvest (evangelism)

*\*questions, questions, questions\**

Proverbs 18:13

### A. Messenger - The **question** of investigation

*\*What spiritual understanding does the Searching Soul have, and what does he perceive his need to be?*

Acts 8:30 And Philip ran thither to him, and heard him read the prophet Esaias, and said, Understandest thou what thou readest?

☞ Genesis 4:8-11

### B. Searching Soul - The revealing **response** of asking more questions, which indicates a true spiritual searching

*\*Is the Searching Soul interested in God knowing more about what God says concerning his need?*

Acts 8:31 And he said, How can I, except some man should guide me? And he desired Philip that he would come up and sit with him.

32 The place of the scripture which he read was this, He was led as a sheep to the slaughter; and like a lamb dumb before his shearer, so opened he not his mouth:

33 In his humiliation his judgment was taken away: and who shall declare his generation? for his life is taken from the earth.

34 And the eunuch answered Philip, and said, I pray thee, of whom speaketh the prophet this? of himself, or of some other man?

☞ Romans 10:9-17

### C. Messenger - The **spanning** of the gap between “religious” knowledge and the full knowledge of the true Gospel of Jesus Christ

*\*How can the knowledge already possessed by the Searching Soul and the present circumstances in the Searching Soul's life serve as a starting point to share from the Bible the true Gospel of Jesus Christ?*

Acts 8:35 Then Philip opened his mouth, and began at the same scripture, and preached unto him Jesus.

☞ Romans 1-16, 10:17, I Corinthians 1:17-31

1. The Gospel of Jesus Christ - I Corinthians 15:1-4
2. The teaching of Jesus Christ - John 3:1-21
3. The Romans' Road to Jesus Christ - Romans 3:23, 6:23, 5:8, 10:9-13
4. Paul's testimony of knowing Jesus Christ - Philippians 3:4-11

### D. Searching Soul - The **persistent interest**, which indicates the **true conviction** of and **through the work** of the Holy Spirit

*\*Has the Searching Soul maintained interest as the truths of God's Word have been clearly presented (without aggressive pushing from the Messenger)?*

Acts 8:36 And as they went on their way, they came unto a certain water: and the eunuch said, See, here is water; what doth hinder me to be baptized?

☞ Acts 16:27-32

### E. Messenger - The **opportunity** for a **definitive decision**

*\*Has the messenger told the Searching Soul that he must make a personal decision by faith to accept Jesus Christ as his personal Savior?*

Acts 8:37 And Philip said, If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest.

☞ Romans 10:9-10

**F. Searching Soul - The declaration of faith in Christ alone**

*\*Is the Searching Soul prepared, of his own accord, to ask Jesus Christ to be his personal Savior?*

Acts 8:37 . . . And he answered and said, I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.

☞ Romans 10:13, Ephesians 2:8-9

**G. Searching Soul - The clear change of heart, represented by an immediate desire to obey**

*\*Has the demeanor and confidence of the Searching Soul/Saved Soul changed to indicate an assurance that his sins have been paid for by the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ?*

Acts 8:38 And he commanded the chariot to stand still: and they went down both into the water, both Philip and the eunuch; and he baptized him.

39 And when they were come up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord caught away Philip, that the eunuch saw him no more: and he went on his way rejoicing.

☞ Romans 10:11, II Corinthians 5:17

Picking spiritual fruit is similar to a farmer planting, watering, and reaping his crop. The farmer takes the time to prepare the soil through cultivation and fertilization. He then plants the seed of the particular crop he desires to reap. After the sowing, there is a time of watering and waiting. The seed must be watered often and although the farmer knows the approximate time of harvest, many situations outside of his control can hasten or delay the time of harvest. As the time of harvest approaches, the farmer carefully inspects the fruit and maintains watering. Then, at just the right moment, in order to produce the ripest and best quality fruit, he gently takes hold of the fruit, and without yanking or jerking, softly picks the fruit from the plant. The fruit, because of its ripeness and readiness, falls directly into the farmer's hand rather than resisting and requiring extra effort. If the farmer forces the fruit, it can be removed from the plant early, but it will never become fully ripe and useful for its purpose. The same is true with the souls of men. The spiritual farmer does not have control over the time of harvest, but has the privilege of sowing and watering while waiting for the Lord to give the increase. Jesus Christ stated that on a specific day in Samaria his disciples were to "look on the fields; for they are [were] white already to harvest" (John 4:35). On that day and during that time in history, Jesus Christ was declaring that the fruit was ready for picking. It was so ready that it was white, which indicates that it was at the peak of ripeness. As laborers in God's harvest field of souls, we must be patiently prepared to sow the seed, water the seed, or reap the harvest--all the while, depending upon the perfect growing power of the Lord of the harvest.

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