

He creates each of us by Christ Jesus to join him in the work he does, the good work he has gotten ready for us to do, work we had better be doing. **Ephesians 2:10 (MSG)**

## HOW TO GO FROM A SPECTATOR TO A STANDOUT

### 1. BE WILLING TO DO WHATEVER

*In those days when the number of disciples was increasing, the Hellenistic Jews among them complained against the Hebraic Jews because their widows were being overlooked in the daily distribution of food. So the Twelve gathered all the disciples together and said, "It would not be right for us to neglect the ministry of the word of God in order to wait on tables. Brothers and sisters, choose seven men from among you who are known to be full of the Spirit and wisdom. We will turn this responsibility over to them and will give our attention to prayer and the ministry of the word."*

*This proposal pleased the whole group. They chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit; also Philip, Procorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolas from Antioch, a convert to Judaism. They presented these men to the apostles, who prayed and laid their hands on them.*

*So the word of God spread. The number of disciples in Jerusalem increased rapidly, and a large number of priests became obedient to the faith. **Acts 6:1-7 (NIV)***

### 2. TURN MY OBSTACLES INTO OPPORTUNITIES

*...A great wave of persecution began that day, sweeping over the church in Jerusalem; and all the believers except the apostles were scattered through the regions of Judea and Samaria. **Acts 8:1 (NLT)***

*Those who had been scattered preached the word wherever they went. Philip went down to a city in Samaria and proclaimed the Messiah there. When the crowds heard Philip and saw the signs he performed, they all paid close attention to what he said. For with shrieks, impure spirits came out of many, and many who were paralyzed or lame were healed. So there was great joy in that city. **Acts 8:4-8 (NIV)***

### 3. ACT QUICKLY ON SPIRITUAL NUDGES

*The Spirit told Philip, "Go to that chariot and stay near it."*

*Then Philip ran up to the chariot and heard the man reading Isaiah the prophet. "Do you understand what you are reading?" Philip asked.*

*"How can I," he said, "unless someone explains it to me?" So he invited Philip to come up and sit with him. This is the passage of Scripture the eunuch was reading:*

*"He was led like a sheep to the slaughter, and as a lamb before its shearer is silent, so he did not open his mouth. In his humiliation he was deprived of justice. Who can speak of his descendants? For his life was taken from the earth."*

*The eunuch asked Philip, "Tell me, please, who is the prophet talking about, himself or someone else?" Then Philip began with that very passage of Scripture and told him the good news about Jesus.*

*As they traveled along the road, they came to some water and the eunuch said, "Look, here is water. What can stand in the way of my being baptized?" Philip said, "If you believe with all your heart, you may." The eunuch answered, "I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God." And he gave orders to stop the chariot. Then both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water and Philip baptized him. **Acts 8:29-38 (NIV)***

*...and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth. **Acts 1:8 (NIV)***

#### THIS WEEK'S READING:

**APR 23:** ACTS 9:26-43; JOSHUA 5:2-6:27; JOB 23

**APR 24:** ACTS 10:1-33; JOSHUA 7-8; JOB 24

**APR 25:** ACTS 10:34-48; JOSHUA 9-10; JOB 25

**APR 26:** ACTS 11:1-18; JOSHUA 11-12; JOB 26

**APR 27:** ACTS 11:19-30; JOSHUA 13-14; JOB 27

**APR 28:** ACTS 12; JOSHUA 15-17; JOB 28

**APR 29:** ACTS 13:1-25; JOSHUA 18-19; JOB 29

For a digital version of the reading plan, visit [SEACOAST.ORG/AYEARINTHEWORD](https://seacoast.org/AYEARINTHEWORD)