

# PHILIP

“The Disciples”



Philip is represented by the cross with two loaves of bread, due to Philip's remark when Jesus fed the multitude.

Did Phillip realize who he was following? We get the impression that he did because he ran to tell Nathaniel and he was so excited to tell him that he had found the Messiah. But later on he questions when he asked Christ “Lord show us the father.” Who did he think Christ was. We can sometimes doubt also and we are so thankful that God does not hold that against us. Sometimes we try to figure out in our finite mind who is God, who is Christ, and where is the Holy Spirit.

Philip is listed in all the Gospels as one of the disciples, but there is not much written about him except some things

*“Philip said, ‘Master, show us the Father; then we’ll be content.’ ‘You’ve been with me all this time, Philip, and you still don’t understand? To see me is to see the Father. So how can you ask, ‘Where is the Father?’ Don’t you believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The Father who resides in me crafts each word into a divine act. Believe me: I am in my Father and my Father is in me. If you can’t believe that, believe what you see—these works. The person who trusts me will not only do what I’m doing but even greater things, because I am giving you the same work to do that I’ve been doing. You can count on it. From now on, whatever you request along the lines of who I am and what I am doing, I’ll do it. Whatever you request in this way, I’ll do it.”*

The Message (selected from John 14:8-14

recorded by John. The questioning by Philip of Christ is recorded in John’s Gospel.

We first meet Philip when Christ called him as a disciple. Jesus had already called Peter, Andrew, James and John as disciples. The Bible tells us that on the next day they were walking towards Galilee and Christ saw Philip and asked him to be one of the disciples. Philip was from the same town as Andrew and Peter.

We don’t know if he questioned at all. What we do know is that he immediately ran to tell his friend Nathanael that he had found the one that was talked about in the Law, the Messiah. He was so excited he wanted to share with his friend. Nathanael’s reaction is either excited or hesitant depending on the interpretation of the verse by various scholars. But Philip didn’t care.

**Grace is a gift that costs everything for the giver and nothing for the recipient.** Phillip Yancey

He just told Nathanael to come and see for himself. Philip had mission zeal from the very beginning. He might be like a person we sometimes call a “New Christian” very eager to tell others about the wonderful Savior he has found. We need to have that same zeal every day that Philip carried to his death. But Philip was like us in many ways. He was enthusiastic, and yet he questioned. Perhaps one of the most often quoted scriptures about him is given in the verse for this meditation when Philip wanted to see the Father Jesus had mentioned.

Following the death of John the Baptist, Jesus was preaching to a crowd of 5,000 who had followed him. As the day grew longer, Jesus turned to Philip and said “Where will we buy bread for these people to eat?” Philip again did

*“Faith isn’t a feeling. It’s a choice to trust God even when the road ahead seems uncertain.”*

Dave Willis

not have enough faith. He said *“Eight months’ wages would not buy enough bread for each one to have a bite!”* He didn’t realize the power that Christ had and later when Andrew brought five small loaves and two fish, Christ multiplied to feed everyone and had 12 baskets left over. (John. 6:5-7). But Christ had just done many miracles, He certainly could have produced the food to feed the crowd. Why did he ask Philip? Perhaps Christ was testing Philip’s faith. Philip was wise, and yet he was weak. He was like all of us. One time as the disciples were gathered, Philip asked Him to show him The Father. Christ answered *“He that hath seen me hath seen the Father.”* Philip probably didn’t understand that answer any more than we would have.

Christ went on to verify Philip’s question by telling him that he would do great works, greater than those that Philip had seen Christ do. What a wonderful answer. Philip had witnessed many miracles. We never hear of Philip doubting again. He accepted what Christ had said and went on to be a missionary of great zeal. But, he didn’t ask anyone else. He asked Christ himself, and when he got the answer, he believed. So often we pray for an answer, but when we get it, we try to change it. We want Christ to

***“When I pray for another person, I am praying for God to open my eyes so that I can see that person as God does, and then enter into the stream of love that God already directs toward that person.”***  
**Phillip Yancey**

give us the answer we have in our mind. If we don’t like the answer we get, we tend to challenge it.

There is an old song by an unknown writer called “Just a Closer Walk with Thee”. I believe the words are the way Philip may have felt when he received that answer from Christ. So often in life, we talk with God and we don’t understand why choices have been made by Him. Why is the life of a young child taken by cancer? Why do some people suffer so long? Why do so many children go to bed hungry every night? Christ gives us answers, just as He did to Philip, but we still don’t understand any more than Philip did.

**JUST A CLOSER WALK WITH THEE**

*“I am weak, but Thou art strong;  
 Jesus, keep me from all wrong;  
 I’ll be satisfied as long  
 As I walk, let me walk close to Thee.*

**Refrain:**

*Just a closer walk with Thee,  
 Grant it, Jesus, is my plea,  
 Daily walking close to Thee,  
 Let it be, dear Lord, let it be.*

*Through this world of toil and nares,  
 If I falter, Lord, who cares?  
 Who with me my burden shares?  
 None but Thee, dear Lord, none but  
 Thee.*

*When my feeble life is o’er,  
 Time for me will be no more;  
 Guide me gently, safely o’er  
 To Thy kingdom shore, to Thy  
 shore.”*

Prayer: Heavenly Father, we don’t have the hardships of Philip, and we have so much more assurance now than he did at that time, and yet we question. Help us to seek to walk daily with You, to ask for Your guidance, and then be willing to follow so that we may be able to tell others “the Good News” just as Philip did so many years ago. Amen

1. How can we be like Philip every day? Does God call us to do great works?
2. Do we ever doubt as Philip did?
3. If you were out on the lake shore and suddenly someone asks you about getting food for 5,000 people, how would you react?
4. How can we simplify our lives today and tomorrow?
5. How can we walk and talk with Christ? How can we follow Him?
6. Do you ever wonder how this whole scenario affected the young boy? Did he become a follower of Christ and witness to the miracle he saw?

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