



# FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH ORILE IGANMU

*Praising the Father, Raising His Children, Reaching the World*

## Philip: An Exemplary Deacon

<b>Preacher:</b>	Rev. Olubayo Afolabi Akanmu
<b>Date:</b>	May 17, 2026
<b>Scripture:</b>	Acts 8:4-8
<b>Description:</b>	The sermon examines Philip as an exemplary deacon worthy of emulation for a successful deacon's ministry. It also informs every church member on the kind of people eligible for deacons' ministry in the church.

*"All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness" - 2 Timothy 3:16*

## Sermon Transcript

### Introduction

Consequent upon the election of deacons in Acts 6:1-7 the word of God spread and the number of disciples in Jerusalem rapidly and a large number of priests became obedient to the faith. Deacons' ministry had both direct and indirect impacts on the growth and expansion of the early church. Serving at the table enabled the apostles to concentrate on the ministry of word and prayer. They did not only support the apostles also they were actively involved in world evangelization. Contemporary churches that will grow and multiply should choose deacons that will have direct and indirect positive impacts on its growth. Deacon Philip is such a deacon worthy of emulation.

### Philip's Ministry

1. Philip in the time of Persecution (Acts 8:4-5): After the martyrdom of Stephen Saul intensified the persecution of

the church. Consequently, the believers scattered everywhere expect the apostles who stayed in Jerusalem. This wave of persecution drove Philip to a city in Samaria. Persecution has different effects on believers. Some became quiet. Some renounced their faith, while a few stood for their faith. Standing for the Lord in the face of persecution is a sign of spiritual maturity. Philip was not an infant in faith. He was not a recent convert (1 Timothy 3:6). Deacons' ministry is not for new persons or infants in the faith.

2. Ministry beyond the Table (Acts 8:5): Philip went down to a city in Samaria and proclaimed the Messiah there. Every believer is called to evangelize (Matthew 28:19-20) and empowered to work wonders (Mark 16:15-18). Serving the table is a specific responsibility of the deacons, but that does not take evangelism and missions, general mandate of all believers from them. You cannot take one and leave the other.

3. Power-backed Ministration (Acts 8:6-7): the deliverance and miraculous healing that followed Philip's ministration shows that he was not just an orator, he was a minister. He was truly a witness of Christ with evidence (Acts 1:8). Deacons are Christ's witnesses whose ministry should be characterized with signs and wonders.

4. Impactful Ministry (Acts 8:8): Philip's ministration brought great joy into the city. Gospel message is Goodnews. It has the power to bring joy to sinners, the poor, the sick, the oppressed and depressed. This is what deacons are called into. Their ministry should not be sorrow or pain-producing one.

5. A Functioning Ministry Fraction (Acts 6:7): The body is made up of several parts with each and every one of them performing its unique functions at the same time. If others are working but one refused to function, the body will not perform optimally. Apostle Peter and others may minister, but if Philip failed to do his part the word of God will not spread as expected. Every deacon in the church has ministry functions that must not be left undone.

#### Conclusion

Sometimes ago one pastor said, "give me a Baptist Sunday school teacher and I will make him a pastor." If a Sunday school can be made a pastor in another church, what do you a Baptist deacon will be? Deacons are assistant pastors. They are expected to be able to some of the things pastors do. This is where spiritual maturity is required. How matured are you to take up deacons' ministry in the church? What aspect of worship can you handle effectively? Can you teach small groups in the church? What about evangelism? If you are not spiritually mature enough to be assistant pastor kindly stay away from deacons' ministry. Before you choose anyone as a deacon, ask yourself, 'can this fellow stand-in for the pastor when he is not around?' can he/she be a good representative of this church? Thanks, and remain blessed.

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#### First Baptist Church Orile Iganmu

16, Ogungbesan Street, Coker, Orile Iganmu, Lagos  
Phone: +2348032150245 | Email: fbcorileiganmu@gmail.com

*"For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them." - Matthew 18:20*