

## The meaning of the Greek words used overleaf:

**euangelizō** = the word from which we get “evangelical” & “evangelism”. It means telling the “good news”. This may be done formally to many people or informally to one person. This chapter clearly shows this.

**kēryssō** = is the word which means “herald”. It carries the sense of declaring a message. It is what preachers do!

**legō** = carries the meaning of systematically laying out information in a discourse or talking clearly & logically.

**diamartyromai** = telling your message or your testimony earnestly & sincerely. It includes the word “martyr” or “witness” within it. That is what every Christian is called to be: Acts 1v 8.

**laleō** = to talk something through.

**hodēgeō** = a guide, carefully leading the way.

Greek text taken from Mounce’s Reverse Interlinear New Testament

“Mission Unstoppable”

## Acts Chapter 8



## “Joining the Dots on Preaching”

Acts Chapter 8 tells us a great deal about how the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ went out beyond Jerusalem into the area of Samaria to the north.

Because of increasing levels of persecution, some of the early Christians were dispersed from Jerusalem & the gospel reached many Samaritan people through their witness.

In the cities & towns, crowds of people gathered and many were saved and baptised specifically, through the preaching of Philip (called “*the evangelist*” in Acts 21 v 8). Reference is also made of two individuals who came to faith; Simon, in a city of Samaria and an Ethiopian Eunuch, on a desert road a almost a hundred miles south. Both were truly ‘surprising conversions’!

What is interesting in the chapter are the many references showing **how the gospel was communicated**. This is not obvious unless we look carefully at the original Greek words that were used by Luke. To do so is most helpful – it shows very clearly the many ways in which all of us can be involved in bringing the gospel message to people in our day.

It’s not all down to the preacher in the pulpit on a Sunday!

We hope that **the chart overleaf** will be a help to explain this – and inspire us to be communicators of the gospel in some of these ways, as the Lord enables us.

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Verse	Text in NKJV	Greek word --- See the explanation of words overleaf Comment	
V4	Therefore those who were scattered went everywhere <b>preaching</b> the word.	<b>euangelizō</b>	These were ordinary Christians – new believers, who took the good news everywhere they went. This wasn't just formal preaching – it included personal witness. We can all do that today!
V5	Then Philip went down to the city of Samaria and <b>preached</b> Christ to them	<b>kēryssō</b>	Philip, as an evangelist, was a gifted preacher who was set apart for the work of 'heralding' the gospel message – in other words, 'open air preaching'!
V6	And the multitudes with one accord heeded the things <b>spoken</b> by Philip	<b>legō</b>	Philip spoke systematically and laid out his material carefully. We should always try to do this. We should be clear & logical when we speak to unbelievers about the gospel.
V12	But when they believed Philip as he <b>preached</b> the things concerning the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, both men and women were baptized.	<b>euangelizō</b>	Philip's 'good news message' had two key components: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>The kingdom of God</i> (the whole compass of God's great work of salvation).</li> <li>- <i>The name of Jesus</i> (the only 'name' given under heaven by which men &amp; women, boys &amp; girls might be saved).</li> </ul> We must always try to speak as much as we can about these two great matters in our witness.
V25	So when they had <b>testified...</b>	<b>diamartyromai</b>	Peter & John spoke their message with real conviction & earnestness.
V25	and <b>preached</b> the word of the Lord...	<b>laleō</b>	They talked it through with their hearers. Naturally when we do that, we expect questions – often gospel communication is through dialogue.
V25	they returned to Jerusalem, <b>preaching</b> the gospel in many villages of the Samaritans.	<b>euangelizō</b>	Peter & John did not waste any opportunity on their journey back to Jerusalem – they told the good news message wherever they went. We must try to seize every opportunity that we are given today.
V31	And he said, "How can I, unless someone <b>guides</b> me?"	<b>hodēgeō</b>	Philip was needed as a 'guide' through the verses of Scripture in Isaiah 53. People often will need us to 'lead them by the hand' through its meaning.
V35	Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning at this Scripture, <b>preached</b> Jesus to him.	<b>euangelizō</b>	Philip evangelised 'one to one' telling this man about the good news that is found in knowing Jesus as Saviour. Evangelists are called to both aspects of the work: preaching to crowds <u>and</u> preaching to individuals!
V40	But Philip was found at Azotus. And passing through, he <b>preached</b> in all the cities till he came to Caesarea.	<b>euangelizō</b>	Philip was the first travelling evangelist of the early church – travelling from place to place preaching the gospel. He is the first example of the gift given to the NT church referred to in Ephesians 4v11: <i>And He (Jesus) Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers...</i>