



Acts 8:26-31 (NLT)

As for Philip, an angel of the Lord said to him, "Go south down the desert road that runs from Jerusalem to Gaza." ²⁷ So he started out, and he met the treasurer of Ethiopia, a eunuch of great authority under the Kandake, the queen of Ethiopia. The eunuch had gone to Jerusalem to worship,

Acts 8:26-31 (NLT)

28 and he was now returning. Seated in his carriage, he was reading aloud from the book of the prophet Isaiah. ²⁹ The Holy Spirit said to Philip, “Go over and walk along beside the carriage.” ³⁰ Philip ran over and heard the man reading from the prophet Isaiah.

Acts 8:26-31 (NLT)

Philip asked, “Do you understand what you are reading?” ³¹ The man replied, “How can I, unless someone instructs me?”

Investigating The Case for Christ

Sticking Point #1: "I *can't* believe" An Intellectual Issue

- The journey toward God has stopped because of an unresolved question

John 20:25 (NLT)

"I won't believe it unless I see the nail wounds in his hands, put my fingers into them, and place my hand into the wound in his side."

Investigating The Case for Christ

Sticking Point #1: "I *can't* believe" An Intellectual Issue

- The journey toward God has stopped because of an unresolved question
- How do we resolve this? Actively seeking God, like the Ethiopian

Jeremiah 29:13 (NLT)

"If you look for me wholeheartedly,
you will find me."

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“We wouldn’t have missed it for the world. In my opinion, finding the purpose for which God made you—whatever it may be—and then fully pursuing it is simply the very best way to live.”

– Viggo Olsen

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Sticking Point #2: “I don’t want to believe”

A Moral Issue

- Concern for their current lifestyle leads them to reject the evidence for Christ

John 3:19 (NLT)

“God’s light came into the world, but people loved the darkness more than the light, for their actions were evil.”

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“I had motives for not wanting the world to have a meaning; consequently assumed that it had none, and was able without any difficulty to find satisfying reasons for this assumption. . . . For myself, as, no doubt, for most of my contemporaries, the philosophy of meaninglessness was essentially an instrument of liberation.”

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The liberation we desired was simultaneously liberation from a certain political and economic system and liberation from a certain system of morality. We objected to the morality because it interfered with our sexual freedom.” – Aldous Huxley

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Sticking Point #2: “I don’t want to believe”

A Moral Issue

- Concern for their current lifestyle leads them to reject the evidence for Christ
- How do we resolve this? Weigh out the benefits & consequences, test out God on this.

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Sticking Point #2: “I don’t want to believe”

An Intimacy Issue

- Fear of a deep, real relationship with God causes us to stop.
- How do we resolve this? Recognize the benefits of trusting God, test out God on this.

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Sticking Point #2: “I don’t want to believe”

Hidden Authority Issue

- Not wanting anyone to tell you what to do, including your Creator.
- How do we resolve this? Realize God doesn’t want to boss us around.

Acts 8:34-35 (NLT)

³⁴ The eunuch asked Philip, “Tell me, was the prophet talking about himself or someone else?” ³⁵ So beginning with this same Scripture, Philip told him the Good News about Jesus.

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Sticking Point #3:

“I don’t know *what to believe*”

A Clarity Issue

- The amount of information, opinions and the differences create confusion.

Romans 6:23 (NLT)

²³ For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord.

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Sticking Point #3:

“I don’t know *what to believe*”

A Clarity Issue

- The amount of information, opinions and the differences create confusion.
- How do we resolve this? Recognize you do not need to know *everything* to know something about the Bible.

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Sticking Point #4:

“I do believe; isn’t that *enough?*”

- Agree with the Gospel but have not experienced more; feel stuck.

James 2:19 (NLT)

¹⁹ You say you have faith, for you believe that there is one God. Good for you! Even the demons believe this, and they tremble in terror.

John 1:12 (NASB)

¹² As many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name

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Sticking Point #4:

“I do believe; isn’t that *enough*?”

- Agree with the Gospel but have not experienced more; feel stuck.
- How do we resolve this? Realize merely agreeing intellectually, isn’t enough.
- **Believe + Receive = Become (John 1:12)**

Acts 8:36-39 (NLT)

³⁶ As they rode along, they came to some water, and the eunuch said, “Look! There’s some water! Why can’t I be baptized?”
[³⁷]³⁸ He ordered the carriage to stop, and they went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. ³⁹ When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away. The eunuch never saw him again but went on his way rejoicing.

