

A 21st Century Great Awakening

***“Do you understand what you are reading?”
Philip asked. “How can I,” he said, “unless
someone explains it to me?” Acts 8:30-31***

The expanding roots of Christianity in the first century church are traced to Ethiopia in Acts 8:26-39. Once again, God’s Church is experiencing unprecedented and immeasurable growth in the Horn of Africa . . . What are some of the undeniable characteristics of a true *Movement of God*?

A Deep Hunger for God *“This man had gone to Jerusalem to worship, ²⁸and on his way home was sitting in his chariot reading the book of Isaiah the prophet.” Acts 8:27-28*

We are all searchers. And our search will end in disappointment until we search and find God.

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst after righteousness, for they will be filled Matthew 5:6

Complete Dependency on the Holy Spirit . . . *Now the Spirit told Philip, “Go to that chariot and stay near it” Acts 8:29*

Love for God’s Word . . . *reading the book of Isaiah Acts 8:25*

For the Word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow: It judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart. Hebrews 4:12

Dedication to Discipleship . . . *“Do you understand what you are reading?” Philip asked. “How can I,” he said, “unless someone explains it to me?” . . . Then Philip began with that very passage of Scripture and told him the good news about Jesus. Acts 8:31-35*

In the heart of a disciple there is a desire and there is a decision . . . to devote oneself to becoming like Christ . . . and . . . systematically and progressively rearranges his affairs to that end.”

Dallas Willard, The Great Omission: Reclaiming Jesus’s Essential Teachings on Discipleship

Passionate Love for Lost and Broken People . *. . . Then Philip ran up to the chariot and heard the man reading Isaiah the prophet. “Do you understand . . . ?”*

Acts

8:30

Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved. Acts 4:12

Deep Faith Inspired by Humility and Generosity . . . *“Look, here is water. Why shouldn’t I be baptized?”^{□ 38} And he gave orders to stop the chariot. Then both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water and Philip baptized him. John 8:37-38*

- *God’s Children are an unselfish people*
- *God’s Children are a sending people*

Embracing the Garden of Gethsemane Prayer Model . . . *Father, if you are willing, take this cup from me; yet not my will, but yours be done.*
Matthew 22:42

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Of the 7 characteristics of a true movement of God . . .

- 1. What one can you identify with the most? Why?**
- 2. What one do you identify with the least? Why?**
- 3. If you are hungering for God, how are you doing that?**
- 4. When is the last time you followed the voice of the Spirit?**
- 5. What is the last Scripture you memorized? How has that impacted you life?**
- 6. If you have read a book of the bible in the last two weeks, how are you applying what you learned to you life?**
- 7. How are you specifically rearranging your life to be a disciple and make a disciple? What are the benefits or difficulties of this obedient rearrangement?**
- 8. When is the last time you shared you faith with an unbeliever? What happened?**
- 9. Would people say you are generous or humble or both? How does humility lead to**

generosity? How does generosity lead to humility?

10. Who is in control of your life right now? You or God? Why?

11. Based on your answers to the previous questions are you ready for a movement of God in your life