

## The Bible is alive, it changes with you.

For the word of God is alive and powerful. It is sharper than the sharpest two-edged sword, cutting between soul and spirit, between joint and marrow. It exposes our innermost thoughts and desires. Hebrews 4:12

## Where did Paul get his power?

I think the secret to it is right here. Vs 18  
*Yes, I am (Jesus) sending you to the Gentiles 18 to open their eyes, so they may turn from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God. Then they will receive forgiveness for their sins and be given a place among God's people, who are set apart by faith in me.'*  
Acts 26:17,18

The power comes from the fact that you get a place with God forever.  
*I go to prepare a place for you, and I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am.*  
John 14:2,3

## Community Group Questions:

1. Explain the differences between the rational and the emotional aspects of the Good News?
2. How would you defend the resurrection today, rationally?
3. How would you defend the resurrection personally (emotionally)?
4. Can you defend the resurrection from the Old Testament prophets?



## Paul's Persuasion before the King Acts 26:1-32

**Chapter 22-** Paul is taken by Roman soldiers in order to protect him from the mob in Jerusalem who are seeking to kill him.

**Chapter 23-** Paul speaks to the Jewish High Council, again the Roman soldiers must rescue him. The Roman authorities learn there is a plot to kill Paul, so they take him to Caesarea Maritima where the Roman Governor Felix will hear his case.

**Chapter 24-** Paul appears before Governor Felix, who puts off deciding the case for two years because Felix wanted to curry favor with the Jewish authorities. Festus replaces Felix as governor of Judea.

**Chapter 25-** Governor Festus wishing to please the Jewish authorities asks Paul if he will be willing to be tried in Jerusalem. Paul says no, and based upon his rights as a Roman citizen appeals to Caesar to hear his case. Before going to Rome, Festus must write a reason for Paul's trial before Caesar. When King Agrippa II, Rome's client King over the area outside of Judea pays a visit to Festus. He invites Agrippa to hear Paul's defense in order that he might gain insight in what to write Caesar.

Then Agrippa said to Paul, "You may speak in your defense." Acts 26:1

**Acts 26:2-21** Paul details his journey from Pharisee to Christ follower and how Jesus appeared to him while traveling to Damascus to arrest Christians, but instead converted and followed Christ call for his life.

**Paul's real goal in all this was always to share the Good News**  
*Agrippa interrupted him. "Do you think you can persuade me to become a Christian so quickly? Paul replied, "Whether quickly or not, I pray to God that both you and everyone here in this audience might become the same as I am, except for these chains."* Acts 26:28,29

**Paul shows King Agrippa that Christianity makes sense 3 ways.**

### **I. Paul's argument makes sense rationally.**

*I teach nothing except what the prophets and Moses said would happen— 23 that the Messiah would suffer and be the first to **rise from the dead**, and in this way announce God's light to Jews and Gentiles alike."* Acts 26:23

*Festus (interrupting): You've gone crazy, Paul! You've read one book too many and have gone insane!* Acts 26:24

*"With all respect, Festus, Your Honor, I'm not crazy. I'm both accurate and sane in what I'm saying.* Acts 26:25

Paul turns to Agrippa and asks Him-  
*The king understands what I'm talking about, which is why I could speak so freely to him. None of these things have been covered up and hidden away in a corner, so I'm sure none of these things have escaped his notice.* Acts 26:26

What's really interesting Agrippa doesn't side with Festus and also call Paul crazy, does he?

**Agrippa:** *Paul, have you so quickly moved on from defending yourself to trying to persuade me to become a Christian?* Acts 26:28

### **Paul wants to share the Good News.**

*Paul replied, "Whether quickly or not, I pray to God that both you and everyone here in this audience might become the same as I am, except for these chains."* Acts 26:29

**At the end of the story,** everyone is saying the same thing:  
*Then the king, the governor, Bernice, and all the others stood and left.<sup>31</sup> As they went out, they talked it over and agreed, "This man hasn't done anything to deserve death or imprisonment."<sup>32</sup> **And Agrippa said to Festus,** "He could have been set free if he hadn't appealed to Caesar." *Acts 26:30-32**

*That's Agrippa's way of acknowledging this guy isn't crazy.*

### **II. Paul's argument makes sense emotionally.**

*'Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me? You are hurting yourself by kicking against the goads..'* Acts 26:14

*I have discovered this principle of life—that when I want to do what is right, I inevitably do what is wrong.<sup>22</sup> I love God's law with all my heart.<sup>23</sup> But there is another power within me that is at war with my mind. This power makes me a slave to the sin that is still within me.* Romans 7:21-23

*I was so zealous that I harshly persecuted the church. And as for righteousness, I obeyed the law without fault.* Philippians 3:6

Paul came to understand in his personal battle for righteousness through obedience to the law of Moses, that it wasn't working, but he didn't know it until Jesus revealed his grace to him.

### **III. Paul's argument makes sense Biblically.**

*I teach nothing except what the prophets and Moses said would happen— 23 that the Messiah would suffer and be the first to rise from the dead, and in this way announce God's light to Jews and Gentiles alike."* Acts 26:22,23

*King Agrippa, do you believe the prophets? I know you do—" Acts 26:27*  
*The prophets- That's a rational appeal*  
*I know you do- What's that? It's a heart appeal.*