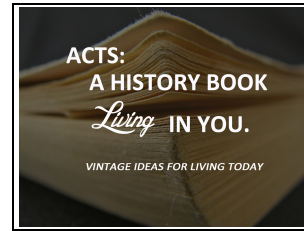


## Where did Paul get the power?

Yes, (Jesus speaking) I am 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.'

- Paul knew because Jesus gave up his place as LORD of the universe and stood in our place, to take upon himself the punishment for our sins, that *we can be brought in and we get to share in His place.*
- And as long as the ultimate King loved him, he didn't care if this king rejected him.

Notes:



Sierra Community Church July 27th, 2014-  
Dan Wilvers

Part 25:

Acts 26:1-32

**The Persuasive Power of Paul**

### Paul's Goal in speaking:

Agrippa interrupted him. *"Do you think you can persuade me to become a Christian so quickly?"*  
Acts 26:28

### Paul demonstrates the three ways Christianity makes sense:

#### I. The Rational

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

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

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

"This man isn't doing anything deserving death—he shouldn't even be in prison." **Agrippa (to Festus):** 32 This man could have been released completely if he had not appealed to the emperor. Acts 26:31,32

## Paul demonstrates the three ways Christianity makes sense:

### II. The Personal

*Paul's speaks 3 times in Acts about his conversion experience.*

Your Excellency, when I saw a light from heaven—brighter than the noonday sun—shining around my companions and me. 14 We all fell to the ground *in fear*, and I then heard a voice.

*But only here in chapter 26 does he share this part of the story*

The words were in Aramaic: “Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me? *When you kick against the cattle prods, you're only hurting yourself.*”

#### Why would Paul share that here?

- He's admitting that the Spirit of God was moving him, but he resisted, he kicked backed.

#### How do we know that?

Something Paul wrote in his letter to Rome.

Here's an *important* principle I've discovered: regardless of my desire to do the right thing, *it is clear that* evil is never far away. 22 For deep down I am in happy agreement with God's law; 23 **but the rest of me does not concur.** I see a very different principle at work in my bodily members, and it is at war with my mind; I have become a prisoner in this war to the rule of sin in my body. Romans 7:21-23

- Paul was aware that as good as he was at keeping the external rules, there was a battle waging inside him.
- Paul had this encounter with Christ that helped him to see exactly what was going on deep inside of his soul.
- Christianity doesn't just make rational sense it begins to make heart sense, emotional sense. It becomes a very personal transformation.

## Paul demonstrates the three ways Christianity makes sense:

### III. The Biblical

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—*” vs 27

- *The prophets-* is the rational appeal
- *I know you do-* is the heart appeal.
- 

Rational and Emotional come together best in the biblical.

#### What do we mean by that?

- When you read about Jesus, particularly in the four gospels, I believe it's rational, but it's also experiential.

Gandhi: “*I love your Christ but I don't like your Christians.*”

I challenge you to read any of the gospels in their entirety and give me an account what kind of person could have said the things, and done the things Jesus did, other than the response that Jesus is who he said he is.