

# *THE ACTS*

OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

## CHAPTER 26:24-32

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### TITLE:

## PAUL'S GREAT DEFENSE - PART 2

**BEING READY TO SHARE THE LORD**

### THEME:

*Acts 1:8*

*"But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth"*

**Re-Capping The Background** - Paul showing up in Jerusalem to worship and see the church was arrested; Lysis holding Paul from the mob, transports Paul to Caesarea under the rule of Felix; Felix being replaced by Festus received a visit from Agrippa II who calls Paul to give a defense for the accusations brought against him

## Another Scene

**Some 18 - 22,000 people** sitting around in the amphitheater - Festus, the Governor .... and Agrippa, the King of Judea and.... Bernice, the knockout babe who's brain was warped from sin... having an incestuous relationship with her brother Agrippa - Just for the bucks & power of it!

## What a Scene

**Anaheim Stadium. The Field**, well-groomed and green. The Crowd gathered - over 30, 000 plus... Just then I had Hot dog attack and left my seat to catch a dog, relish, onions, mustard, the works... got back to my seat, enjoying my hot-dog, the crowd now going nuts.... Just then a guy tapped me on the shoulder and said "Isn't that your wife standing on top of the dug-out - leading the masses in a cheer - it's a true story

### CHAPTER 26 BEGAN WITH HIS OPPORTUNITY TO SPEAK FOR HIMSELF

- A) vv. 4-5 He began with his upbringing
- B) vv. 6-7 He hoped in the very Promises of the Old Testament
- C) vv. 8 Paul's hope & Power was in the **Miraculous**-Result of Christ

The Miraculous is Nothing for God to do.

It's nothing for you to believe - if  
your understanding of God is Accurate

"J.B.Phillips wrote the book - "Your God is too Small"

# But Paul's Defense - Was Jesus' Message

With an Obvious Desire  
to Win Agrippa to Christ

Paul's defense brought all men,

the entire human race before God on the same level or on Equal grounds - All Men,  
Everywhere needs Jesus to Save them.

## What was His Case, His Defense

#1 He was Ordained by God Himself

vv.15b-17

#2 He was To Proclaim the Message of Christ

vv. 18

Acts 26:19

" (#1) Therefore, King Agrippa, I was not disobedient to the heavenly vision, Acts 26:20 "(#2)  
but declared first to those in Damascus and in Jerusalem, and throughout all the region of Judea,  
and then to the Gentiles, - that they should (A) repent, (B) turn to God, and (C) do works  
befitting repentance.

(A) Change your Mind - (B) Run to God - (C) Live the New Life

\*      **Defense**      **626 apologeomai (ap-ol-og-eh'-om-ahee)**  
(a legal plea) to give answer for yourself, to state your case.  
In English, It is the Word "Apology" but in its truest meaning is not to  
say I'm sorry for something or to admit guilt - **it is to give a reason, to**  
**give a meaning to the action, to justify your actions because of convictions**

- *The Nationalistic Jew, was Outraged !*
- *The Self-righteous Man, Furious !*

# Sin, Like an Invisible Cloud

hangs over every man

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ALL OF US, WE ALL MUST FACE OUR SINS

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God's way

*is face them now, confess them, and give them over to God*

Man's way

*is deny sin or to deceive himself in thinking that it doesn't matter*

1. **Paul's Power** *to Share came from Knowing God* vv. 24-27

Verse 24a

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**Mad GRK 3105 mainomai** (mah'-ee-nom-ahee);

to rave as a "maniac" (INSANE) to be beside yourself or out of your mind.  
BESIDE, *MEANING THERE'S TWO OF YOU THERE -PAUL*

Festus was starting to Fester...

It's the Word of God - that Opens the Eyes

Acts 26:18a

'The Message was Given to #1 open their eyes,'

**Satan** Has Blinded the Eyes of All Human Life that's Born into The World

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## We have all been Born Blind...

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2 Corinthians 4:4

whose minds the god of this age has blinded, who do not believe, lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine on them.

Acts 26:18b

in order to #2 turn them from darkness to light, and #3 from the power of Satan to God, that they may #4 receive forgiveness of sins and #5 an inheritance among those who are sanctified by faith in Me.'

## A.) We Will be More Effective if We Know the Message

Know the Word Here & Home  
*eating vegetables - then & now*

### Three Steps to Victory in the Christian Life

if you want to make it - decide to do the following:

**#1. COMMUNICATION (A PRAYER TO HIM) THAT STARTS YOUR ENGINE**

**#2. THE WORD (JESUS) WILL CAUSE US TO RUN THE RACE WELL**

**#3. FELLOWSHIP WITH CHRISTIANS, IT'S LIKE OIL, IT HELPS US ALONG**

*(No one would think for a moment that they could run their car  
without the three essentials)*

**#1 THE BATTERY - TO GET THE ENGINE STARTED.**

**#2 THEN GASOLINE - TO RUN IT DOWN THE STREET.**

**#3 AND OIL - TO KEEP IT GOING ON THE STREET AND AROUND THE WORLD!**

2 Peter 1:3-8

His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness. :4 Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature and escape the corruption in the world caused by evil desires. :5 For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; :6 and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; :7 and to godliness, brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness, love. :8 For if you possess these qualities in increasing measure, they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ!

1 Peter 3:15

But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. And always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you - to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect,

The More You Understand - the Bolder You become

~ THE CALL ~

2 Timothy 2:15

Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth. (Ask (The Bible-Yourself) questions))

Our Greatest Hindrance to Spiritual Growth

1. is the fear of the unknown
2. the fear of being wrong

## b.) Paul Knew Who & What He Had Believed In

“How” was Paul able to give a defense

2 Timothy 1:12

.....nevertheless I am not ashamed, for I know whom I have believed and am persuaded that He is able to keep what I have committed to Him.

Think Of The Power That's Here In The Word

- To The Teenager - The Power over The Crowd - is Knowing the Bible
- To The Young Adult Female - The Power over The World - is Knowing the Bible
- To the Young Adult Male - The Power over Temptation - is Knowing the Bible
- To The Senior Citizen - The Power over Fear - is Knowing the Bible

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## You Can Be bold - Knowing who Jesus is !

Peer pressure goes out the window - you begin to lead

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My Youth

**- I LOOK BACK AND WISH SOMEONE WOULD HAVE TOLD ME  
WHAT I WANTED TO HEAR - WHEN I WAS A TEEN & YOUNG ADULT!**

**- DON'T PLAY WITH SEX - IT WILL DAMAGE YOU  
DON'T EXPERIMENT WITH ALCOHOL - IT WILL HURT YOU!**

**NEVER, HAVE I EVER,**

**HAD ANY ONE - EVER SAY TO ME PASTOR JACK,**

- I AM SO GLAD THAT I TRIED SEX OUTSIDE OF MARRIAGE.
- IT WAS SO HELPFUL TO MY LIFE TO HAVE BEEN DOING DRUGS IN SCHOOL

*“I am so much better off now that I've done those things”*

Are you a Virgin? - Stay a virgin  
What if You're not a virgin - You can become one now and until you marry a  
Christian.

He's The God of the Second Chance !!!

You can have confidence again - because of the word of God...

John 15:3

Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you.

C.) Has Believing-Knowing Him, Changed Us ?

**Am I Really a Christian ?  
(you're the pastor - that doesn't matter - strike against me)**

It Depends On What You & I Believe & How You & I Live what we  
believe...

- #1 Is He the Lord?
- #2 Has that Fact Changed the Way I live?

Does Your Believing ~ Affect Your Living?

The 4 minute mile

Without the knowledge, I cannot do it Myself

(Many self-proclaimed Christians are trying to live the life  
without Knowing How To)

**#1 - DO WE KNOW WHAT A CHRISTIAN IS ?**

Acts 6:7

Then the word of God spread, and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly

## Acts 11:26

And the disciples began to be called Christians first in the city of Antioch.

- \* **Disciple**      **GRK 3101 mathetes (math-ay-tes')**  
a student, one who learns the ways of his teacher, a follower of the leader
- \* **Christian**      **GRK 5546 Christianos (khris-tee-an-os';**  
a follower of Jesus Christ, an imitator of Christ, one who practices the teachings of Christ

## #2 - WHY DO YOU CONSIDER YOURSELF A CHRISTIAN ?

Luke 6:46

"But why do you call Me 'Lord, Lord,' and do not do the things which I say? :47 "Whoever comes to Me, and hears My sayings and does them, I will show you whom he is like: :48 He is like a man building a house, who dug down deep and laid the foundation on rock. When a flood came, the torrent struck that house but could not shake it, because it was well built. :49 But the one who hears my words and not put them into practice is like a man who built a house on the ground without a foundation. The moment the torrent struck that house, it collapsed and its destruction was complete."

## D.) Knowing Him Builds Assurance for Living Life v.25

- \* **truth**      **GRK & Eng.**  
Veracity, integrity, accuracy, exactness,
- \* **reason**      **GRK & ENG.**  
Sanity, a mind that is working properly

## Notice Paul's Logic to Evangelism

- #1 He uses a Sensible, Reasonable, Logical argument - Agrippa, Think clearly now!
- #2 He calls to Mind the Obvious, this stuff is well known Grip!

- \* **escapes,**      **GRK**      in the present tense, meaning that, you have been thinking about these things, - you've been hearing about it, you've read about it, you wondered about - you know it's true!

no doubt he reminded him of Jesus' public ministry of healing and of teaching

## The Jesus Style of Teaching

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I can tell you all day long *what to do about landing an airplane. I can tell you when to do what you should do, but you will never fly with just the head knowledge of it - You've got to first get in the airplane with the instructor and you watch, listen, and then you try, and **trying is the greatest lesson of learning***

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Jesus taught the disciples by doing it Himself  
- then He told them NOW YOU do it

Knowing Him Builds Assurance for Living Life

Imagine Knowing All the Answers to next week's Test  
- *Hey Bring it on - Lets go for it*

### Verse 26b

John 18:20

Jesus answered him, "I spoke openly to the world. I always taught in synagogues and in the temple, where the Jews always meet, and in secret I have said nothing."

### Verse 27

**What a great Question,  
Because the Prophets cannot be Denied !!!**

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The 100% accuracy of the Bible  
*demand that you decide between;*

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# Truth & Reason

(Accuracy & Sanity)

VS.

## Falsehood & Foolish Thinking

( A Lie & Insanity)

1. Paul's Power to Share, *Was from the Word of God* vv. 24-27

2. Paul's Confidence *Was In the Work of God* vv. 28-29

\* **Almost** **GRK 3641 oligos (ol-ee'-gos)**  
to a point, to a degree, you somewhat convince

\* **Persuade** **GRK 3982 peitho (pi'-tho)**  
to convince by argument of truth. To provide the evidence or authority

In the past, God overlooked such ignorance, but now He commands all people everywhere to repent. :31 "because He has appointed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness by the Man whom He has ordained. He has given assurance of this to all by raising Him from the dead."

ALMOST A CHRISTIAN - Agrippa knew the difference !!! (0 or 100%)

Jeremiah 8:20  
"The harvest is past, the summer is ended, and we are not saved!"

### History Has Recorded the End of these Players

- |              |  |
|--------------|--|
| 1. Paul      | He's Killed for being a Christian - Goes to Heaven           |
| 2. Felix     | He's murdered over governmental corruption                   |
| 3. Festus    | He dies of a heart attack in office                          |
| 4. Agrippa   | He   |
| 5. Bernice   | She moved in with Gen. Titus Aspagean, & two senators & dies |
| 6. Lysias    | The Commander, he died a roman Commander                     |
| 7. The Crowd | They all eventually Died too                                 |

They All Slipped into Eternity

# 10 out of 10 people die

- |    |  |                  |
|----|--|------------------|
| 1. | Paul's Power to Share, <i>Was from the Word of God</i> | <i>vv. 24-27</i> |
| 2. | Paul's Confidence <i>Was In the Work of God</i>        | <i>vv. 28-29</i> |
| 3. | Paul's Peace <i>Came from Being in The Will of God</i> | <i>vv. 30-32</i> |

## Verse 31

**“They talked among themselves”**  
(What did they Say ?)

What a weirdo this Paul is

Yeah but, what about his message - the Bible does say all the things. What he said was true and the things he is speaking of, did take place - just ask Rome, and hey, my whole family since my grandfather has struggled with these things

He's an old man, what does he know

What he says is thousands of years old and it has been fulfilled as the prophets said - exactly so!

## Verse 32

What an Interesting statement  
**“This man might have been set free”**

Did God want Paul free? q YES r NO

**The Answer is NO- why ?**

Because God had a Fantastic plan awaiting Paul in Rome  
and going in chains was the only way to do it

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Where Did Paul Get this Example of Ministry ?

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# From Jesus Christ Himself

**“This man might have been set free”**

Did God the Father want Jesus free? q YES r NO

Matthew 7:19-23

"Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. :20 "Therefore by their fruits you will know them. (their manner of life, their personal witness - not their ministry, not their speaking abilities, not their influence of a person or a crowd - LISTEN TO THIS) :21 "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. :22 "Many will say to Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?' :23 (NIV) Then I will tell them plainly, 'I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!"

There will be alot of Kings, Queens, Generals and Commanders, Evangelists, Pastors and Popes - in Hell - if they're not born of the Spirit of God and Personally Know Jesus

## But I've done so much Good

Isaiah 64:6

But we are all like an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are like filthy rags; we all fade as a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away.

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**Rags HEB 899 beged (behg'-ed**  
a covering, a cloth for cleansing, a lap rag,

\*

**Filthy HEB 5708 `ed (ayd**  
the soiling from a menstrual cycle

That's why the Message of Salvation is so sweet, so wonderful -  
It's Cleansing - God's Way !