

Focus passage: Acts 26:19-32

19 “Therefore, O King Agrippa, I was not disobedient to the heavenly vision, **20** but declared first to those in Damascus, then in Jerusalem and throughout all the region of Judea, and also to the Gentiles, that they should repent and turn to God, performing deeds in keeping with their repentance. **21** For this reason the Jews seized me in the temple and tried to kill me. **22** To this day I have had the help that comes from God, and so I stand here testifying both to small and great, saying nothing but what the prophets and Moses said would come to pass: **23** that the Christ must suffer and that, by being the first to rise from the dead, he would proclaim light both to our people and to the Gentiles.”

24 And as he was saying these things in his defense, Festus said with a loud voice, “Paul, you are out of your mind; your great learning is driving you out of your mind.” **25** But Paul said, “I am not out of my mind, most excellent Festus, but I am speaking true and rational words. **26** For the king knows about these things, and to him I speak boldly. For I am persuaded that none of these things has escaped his notice, for this has not been done in a corner. **27** King Agrippa, do you believe the prophets? I know that you believe.” **28** And Agrippa said to Paul, “In a short time would you persuade me to be a Christian?” **29** And Paul said, “Whether short or long, I would to God that not only you but also all who hear me this day might become such as I am—except for these chains.”

30 Then the king rose, and the governor and Bernice and those who were sitting with them. **31** And when they had withdrawn, they said to one another, “This man is doing nothing to deserve death or imprisonment.” **32** And Agrippa said to Festus, “This man could have been set free if he had not appealed to Caesar.”

What stands out to you from this passage?

*What is the vision Paul was given? If you need review, go back to the beginning of the chapter and **read Acts 26:1-18**.*

What has been the reaction to Paul’s ministry? Why do you think the Jews reacted the way they did?

The last verse of chapter 26 tells us that Paul didn’t have to be taken in chains to the King if he hadn’t made his appeal to Caesar. But what did he accomplish by his appeal?

Having been given the ear of Agrippa, what was Paul’s intent with his speech?

*Paul’s hope is that all people would become as he is, except for his chains. **Read Romans 1:15-16** to see Paul write about this hope. Do we share such boldness? How can we foster such an attitude?*

Can you think of times in your life when your hardships afforded you a unique opportunity? Did you think God was working in those circumstances?

How can you apply this Scripture to your life?

