

Acts 26:19

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Whereupon, O king Agrippa, I was not disobedient unto the heavenly vision:

Analysis

Whereupon, O king Agrippa, I was not disobedient unto the heavenly vision (οὐκ ἐγενόμην ἀπειθής τῇ οὐρανίῳ ὀπτασίᾳ)—Paul's defining life principle: immediate, unwavering obedience to divine revelation. The Greek *apeithēs* (disobedient) carries connotations of willful rebellion, which Paul emphatically denies with the double negative construction. **Heavenly vision** (*ouraniō optasia*) refers to his Damascus Road encounter (Acts 9:3-6), the theological anchor of his apostleship and message.

This declaration before Agrippa demonstrates how Paul's entire ministry—his sufferings, missionary journeys, and present imprisonment—flows from obedience to that single transformative revelation. The phrase reveals that genuine conversion produces not mere intellectual assent but radical life reorientation under Christ's lordship. Paul's obedience cost him everything the old Saul valued: Pharisaic status, persecution-free existence, comfortable Judaism—yet gained him Christ.

Historical Context

Paul spoke these words around AD 59-60 during his defense before King Herod Agrippa II (great-grandson of Herod the Great) and the Roman governor Festus in Caesarea. After two years of imprisonment in Caesarea following his arrest in Jerusalem, Paul recounts his conversion and calling to validate his apostleship and explain why Jewish leaders sought his death. Agrippa, knowledgeable about Jewish

customs and controversies, was uniquely positioned to understand Paul's argument.

Related Passages

1 John 4:8 — God is love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Study Questions

1. What 'heavenly vision' has God given you that requires ongoing obedience despite personal cost?
2. How does Paul's immediate obedience to Christ's call challenge areas where you delay or rationalize disobedience?

Interlinear Text

Ὅθεν	βασιλεῦ	Ἀγρίππα	οὐκ	ἐγενόμην	ἀπειθῆς	τῇ
Whereupon	O king	Agrippa	not	I was	disobedient	G3588
G3606	G935	G67	G3756	G1096	G545	
οὐρανίῳ	ὁπτασίᾳ					
unto the heavenly	vision					
G3770	G3701					

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 50:5 (Parallel theme): The Lord GOD hath opened mine ear, and I was not rebellious, neither turned away back.

Galatians 1:16 (Parallel theme): To reveal his Son in me, that I might preach him among the heathen; immediately I conferred not with flesh and blood:

Jeremiah 20:9 (Parallel theme): Then I said, I will not make mention of him, nor speak any more in his name. But his word was in mine heart as a burning fire shut up in my bones, and I was weary with forbearing, and I could not stay.

Jonah 1:3 (Parallel theme): But Jonah rose up to flee unto Tarshish from the presence of the LORD, and went down to Joppa; and he found a ship going to Tarshish: so he paid the fare thereof, and went down into it, to go with them unto Tarshish from the presence of the LORD.

Ezekiel 3:14 (Parallel theme): So the spirit lifted me up, and took me away, and I went in bitterness, in the heat of my spirit; but the hand of the LORD was strong upon me.

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