

Acts 26:28

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then Agrippa said unto Paul, Almost thou persuadest me to be a Christian.

Analysis

Then Agrippa said unto Paul, Almost thou persuadest me to be a Christian (ἐν ὀλίγῳ με πείθεις Χριστιανὸν ποιῆσαι)—The Greek phrase *en oligō* ('in a little') is ambiguous: 'almost,' 'in short order,' or even ironically, 'with little effort.' The verb *peithō* means 'to persuade, convince'—Paul's defense had penetrated Agrippa's intellect, if not his will. **Christian** (Χριστιανόν) appears only three times in Scripture (Acts 11:26, 26:28, 1 Peter 4:16)—originally a term of mockery meaning 'partisan of Christ,' here acknowledged by a king.

Agrippa's response is one of history's most tragic 'almosts'—like Felix trembling but dismissing Paul (24:25), he stands at the threshold of faith but will not cross. *Poieō* ('to make, do') reveals the issue: he recognizes becoming Christian as a deliberate act, a categorical break with his incestuous relationship with Bernice, his political ambitions, his Herodian heritage. Paul's testimony—Damascus road encounter, prophetic fulfillment, resurrection of Christ—logically compelled assent, but the cost was too high. Almost persuaded is eternally lost.

Historical Context

This exchange occurred around AD 59-60 in Caesarea. Agrippa II was educated in Rome, deeply versed in Jewish theology (v. 3), and understood messianic prophecy. His great-grandfather Herod the Great murdered Bethlehem's infants; his great-uncle Antipas beheaded John the Baptist and mocked Jesus; his father Agrippa I killed James and imprisoned Peter. Now this Agrippa hears the gospel clearly

articulated—and refuses it. Within a decade, he would side with Rome against Jerusalem (AD 66-70), betraying his own people.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Study Questions

1. What intellectual or lifestyle barriers keep you 'almost persuaded' but prevent full surrender to Christ?
2. How does Agrippa's tragedy warn against the danger of admiring Christianity intellectually while refusing it personally?

Interlinear Text

ὁ	δὲ	Ἀγρίππας	πρὸς	τὸν	Παῦλον	ἔφη,	Ἐν	ὀλίγῳ
G3588	Then	Agrippa	unto	G3588	Paul	said	Almost	G3641
	G1161	G67	G4314		G3972	G5346	G1722	
με	πείθεις	Χριστιανὸν	γενέσθαι					
me	thou persuadest	a Christian	to be					
G3165	G3982	G5546	G1096					

Additional Cross-References

Acts 11:26 (References Christ): And when he had found him, he brought him unto Antioch. And it came to pass, that a whole year they assembled themselves with the church, and taught much people. And the disciples were called Christians first in Antioch.

Matthew 10:18 (Parallel theme): And ye shall be brought before governors and kings for my sake, for a testimony against them and the Gentiles.

