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ALMOST PERSUADED

In Acts chapter 26 the apostle Paul is brought before King Agrippa and Festus the Governor and was put on trial. The Jews had tried to have him executed for what they called blasphemy. He preached that Jesus was the Christ (the anointed Messiah) and to them that was blasphemous.

Paul often had problems with religious leaders. He had once been among the Pharisees himself and had brought much destruction to the early church. Yet, when he was converted to Christianity, he made a hundred and eighty degrees turn around. He was definitely a new man in Christ. His zeal to kill those of "the way" (Christians) was turned now to bringing many to "the way."

As he stood before King Agrippa and was allowed to speak for himself, he testified of what his life had been before Christ. He told Agrippa how he encountered a heavenly vision on the road to Damascus and was called to follow Jesus. In Acts 26:19 Paul said, ***"Whereupon, O king Agrippa, I was not disobedient unto the heavenly vision."***

Paul never turned back to the way he had been before meeting the Lord. As Acts 26 continues as he testifies to Agrippa about salvation. Festus, the governor of Judea was there, and in Acts 26:24 said, ***"...Festus said with a loud voice, Paul, thou art beside thyself; much learning doth make thee mad."*** Paul replied that he wasn't mad but spoke the truth about Jesus.

Paul turned to King Agrippa and said in Acts 26:27, ***"King Agrippa, believest thou the prophets? I know that thou believest."***

King Agrippa answered Paul in verse 28, ***"Then Agrippa said unto Paul, 'Almost thou persuadest me to be a Christian.'"***

Paul did his best to share Jesus with a lost sinner, a king, but the king declined. He came close, but he never accepted Jesus as his savior and Messiah.

There are many that come close, almost being persuaded, but they never make the choice to follow the Lord. One day when they take their last breath it will be too late for them. They will stand before Jesus and have no defense. While Paul on the other hand, will be in his robe of righteousness because when Jesus called to him on the Road to Damascus, he heeded the voice of Jesus which persuaded him to choose him, and Paul answered the call.

What about you? Are you "almost persuaded" or have you given your life to Christ?