



# Living a Christ-Centered Life in the Face of Trials

**“... when I found that he had committed nothing worthy of death, and that he himself hath appealed to Augustus, I have determined to send him” (Acts 25:25).**

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“And after certain days king Agrippa and Bernice came unto Caesarea to salute Festus. 14 And when they had been there many days, Festus declared Paul's cause unto the king, saying, There is a certain man left in bonds by Felix: 15 About whom, when I was at Jerusalem, the chief priests and the elders of the Jews informed me, desiring to have judgment against him. 16 To whom I answered, It is not the manner of the Romans to deliver any man to die, before that he which is accused have the accusers face to face, and have licence to answer for himself concerning the crime laid against him. 17 Therefore, when they were come hither, without any delay on the morrow I sat on the judgment seat, and commanded the man to be brought forth. 18 Against whom when the accusers stood up, they brought none accusation of such things as I supposed: 19 But had certain questions against him of their own superstition, and of one Jesus, which was dead, whom Paul affirmed to be alive. 20 And because I doubted of such manner of questions, I asked him whether he would go to Jerusalem, and there be judged of these matters. 21 But when Paul had appealed to be reserved unto the hearing of Augustus, I commanded him to be kept till I might send him to Caesar. 22 Then Agrippa said unto Festus, I would also hear the man myself. To morrow, said he, thou shalt hear him. 23 And on the morrow, when Agrippa was come, and Bernice, with great pomp, and was entered into the place of hearing,

**“For it seemeth to me unreasonable to send a prisoner, and not withal to signify the crimes laid against him” (Acts 25:27).**


with the chief captains, and principal men of the city, at Festus' commandment Paul was brought forth. 24 And Festus said, King Agrippa, and all men which are here present with us, ye see this man, about whom all the multitude of the Jews have dealt with me, both at Jerusalem, and also here, crying that he ought not to live any longer. 25 But when I found that he had committed nothing worthy of death, and that he himself hath appealed to Augustus, I have determined to send him. 26 Of whom I have no certain thing to write unto my lord. Wherefore I have brought him forth before you, and specially before thee, O king Agrippa, that, after examination had, I might have somewhat to write. 27 For it seemeth to me unreasonable to send a prisoner, and not withal to signify the crimes laid against him” (Acts 25:13-27).

## **Introduction:**

In Acts 25:13-27, we see Paul standing trial before King Agrippa and Festus. Though falsely accused, he remains steadfast in his faith. This passage offers valuable lessons on Christian living, particularly in how we should respond to adversity and remain faithful to our calling.

## **I. Stand Firm in Your Faith**

Paul did not waver despite the false ac-



cusations against him. As Christians, we will face trials, but we must remain firm in our beliefs.

- **Acts 25:19** – Paul is accused regarding "one Jesus, which was dead, whom Paul affirmed to be alive." This highlights his unwavering faith in the resurrection.
- **1 Peter 4:12-13** – "Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you... But rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings."
- **Ephesians 6:13** – "Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand."

## II. Trust in God's Sovereignty

Paul's life was in danger, but he trusted that God was in control.

- **Acts 25:25** – Festus acknowledges Paul had done nothing worthy of death. God was working behind the scenes to protect him.
- **Romans 8:28** – "And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose."
- **Psalms 46:1** – "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble."

## III. Be a Witness for Christ

Even in chains, Paul remained a witness to Christ, speaking boldly about his faith.

- **Acts 25:23-24** – Paul is presented before Agrippa, giving him another opportunity to share the Gospel.
- **Matthew 5:16** – "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see

your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven."

- **2 Timothy 4:2** – "Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all long-suffering and doctrine."

## IV. Be Prepared for Misunderstanding and Persecution

Festus struggled to understand Paul's faith, even calling it a matter of "superstition" (Acts 25:19).

- **John 15:18-19** – "If the world hate you, ye know that it hated me before it hated you. 19 If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you."
- **Matthew 10:22** – "And ye shall be hated of all men for my name's sake: but he that endureth to the end shall be saved."
- **2 Corinthians 12:9** – "My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness."

## Conclusion:

Paul's unwavering faith, trust in God, and commitment to witnessing serve as an example for every believer. We, too, must stand firm, trust in God's sovereignty, remain faithful in our witness, and be prepared for opposition. Let us take encouragement from his testimony and continue to live boldly for Christ.

May we press on, knowing that our faith is not in vain. Amen.