



ALMOST

PETER BELLINGHAM

19 AUGUST 2006

KING AGRIPPA

*Then Agrippa said to Paul, "You almost persuade me to become a Christian." (Acts 26:28 NKJV) "You almost persuade me to become a Christian, but not quite." Was the problem that there was something lacking in Paul's presentation of the gospel? No. If you read the whole chapter you'll see that Paul testified in detail to the King, giving his personal testimony and explaining the gospel. He shared Jesus Christ with him. But Agrippa fell short and didn't want to follow through by surrendering His life to Jesus. "You ALMOST persuade me to become a Christian."*

*(Acts 26:26-32) 26 For the king, before whom I also speak freely, knows these things; for I am convinced that none of these things escapes his attention, since this thing was not done in a corner. The king understood what Paul was talking about.*

*27 King Agrippa, do you believe the prophets? I know that you do believe." Agrippa didn't just understand, he also believed the prophets.*

*28 Then Agrippa said to Paul, "You almost persuade me to become a Christian." He didn't want to surrender his life to Jesus.*

*29 And Paul said, "I would to God that not only you, but also all who hear me today, might become both almost and altogether such as I am, except for these chains." 30 When he had said these things, the king stood up, as well as the governor and Bernice and those who sat with them; 31 and when they had gone aside, they talked among themselves, saying, "This man is doing nothing deserving of death or chains." 32 Then Agrippa said to Festus, "This man might have been set free if he had not appealed to Caesar." Agrippa acknowledged Paul's innocence. He didn't condemn him. He spoke in his defense. But that wasn't enough. He should have accepted Jesus for himself*

Almost is not enough. Agrippa was still a lost man on his way to hell, no matter how close he came to accepting Jesus. It's not enough to be almost saved from drowning. It's not enough to be almost rescued from a burning building.

How many times in the World Cup soccer games did we hear the commentator shout, "Nearly a goal!" But at the end of the day, the "nearly goals" don't mean a thing!

PILATE

*Pilate said to Him, "What is truth?" And when he had said this, he went out again to the Jews, and said to them, "I find no fault in Him at all. (John 18:38) Pilate then went out again, and said to them, "Behold, I am bringing Him out to you, that you may know that I find no fault in Him." (John 19:4)*

It was Pilate's responsibility to judge Jesus. He didn't find any fault in Him. So what should he have done? Released him. But what did he do?

*From then on Pilate sought to release Him, but the Jews cried out, saying, "If you let this Man go, you are not Caesar's friend. Whoever makes himself a king speaks against Caesar." (John 19:12) Pilate said to them, "What then shall I do with Jesus who is called Christ?" They all said to him, "Let Him be crucified!" 23 Then the governor said, "Why, what evil has He done?" But they cried out*

PILATE WASHED  
HIS HANDS  
BEFORE THE  
MULTITUDE.

*all the more, saying, "Let Him be crucified!" 24 When Pilate saw that he could not prevail at all, but rather that a tumult was rising, he took water and washed his hands before the multitude, saying, "I am innocent of the blood of this just Person You see to it." (Matthew 27:22-24)* Pilate believed Jesus was innocent, wanted to free Him, and washed his hands to protest his innocence. But did all this make him innocent of Jesus' blood? Not at all! He didn't follow through with his trust in Jesus' innocence or his desire to judge justly. He sent Jesus to die. So he was just as culpable as everyone else.

**YOU ALMOST  
PERSUADE ME TO  
BE A CHRISTIAN.**

God calls us to completion. To fully believe what He wants us to believe. To fully do what He wants us to. Jesus completed his assignment on earth with the words, It is finished (John 19:30) Paul near the end of his life wrote, *I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith:* (2 Timothy 4:7)

### ALMOST BELIEVING

What has God asked you to believe? Are you believing it or almost believing it?

For example, *Therefore take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed? 32 (For after all these things do the Gentiles seek:) for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things. 33 But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you. (Matthew 6:31-33)* Perhaps you believe that most of the time. But then you fall into difficult times economically and it's tough to go on believing it. So once again you take on yourself the burden of worrying and you stop believing the Word. Reacting this way shows you don't yet believe the Word. You almost believe it.

*Who forgives all your iniquities (Psalm 103:3)* How many of your sins has God forgiven you of? All of them! Do you believe it? Or do you almost believe it? Do you believe He's forgiven all of your sins, except that one specific one, which Satan is always reminding you about? We must believe, not almost believe.

### ALMOST OBEYING

What has God asked you to do? Are you doing it or *almost* doing it?

*Do all things without grumbling and faultfinding and complaining...* (Philippians 2:14 AMP) What things should we do without grumbling and complaining? Everything! We've talked about this verse a lot in my house. And many times God's reminded me of it and convicted me when I've been grumbling. When do we have the right to grumble? We never, in any circumstance, have the right to grumble! So, are we going to believe the Word of God about this, and obey it? Or will we almost believe it, and almost obey it, leaving alone areas of our life where we'd prefer to keep sinning by grumbling?

*Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice...* (Ephesians 4:31) It says "all." What does the word, "all" mean? It means all! All bitterness, all wrath... Without exception. "Wrath" means bad temper, outbursts of anger, and uncontrolled anger. No more excuses for that bad temper...

Once again, are we going to obey this word, or almost obey it, making excuses and allowing ourselves to be bad tempered in certain circumstances?

(Ephesians 5:24-26) *24 Therefore, just as the church is subject to Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in everything.* Wives, are we going to obey the word here, or almost obey it?

*25 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her, 26 that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word...* (Ephesians 5:24-26 NKJV) Husbands, it's our responsibility to wash our wife with the word, isn't it? Are we going to do it or in certain areas are we going to avoid challenging her with the truth because we'd rather keep the peace? The same when it comes to how we raise and discipline our children?

Well, there are masses of examples of what God wants us to believe and what He wants us to do. We're not perfect but we should always seek to believe and obey completely, not partially.

#### THE STONES

*But he that received the seed into stony places, the same is he that heareth the word, and anon with joy receiveth it; 21 Yet hath he not root in himself, but dureth for a while: for when tribulation or persecution ariseth because of the word, by and by he is offended.* (Matt 13:20-21) This person begins to walk with Jesus, but doesn't sink his roots down deep into Jesus. In other words, he doesn't cultivate his relationship. He doesn't allow God to continue to discipline him and deal with his heart. So when temptations and trials come he is offended; that is, he begins to distrust and desert Jesus. He started well but doesn't follow through.

#### THE THORNS

*He also that received seed among the thorns is he that heareth the word; and the care of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, choke the word, and he becometh unfruitful.* (Matthew 13:22) This person also begins well, hearing the Word. The seed begins to grow, but it's suffocated by worry (how will we be able to buy food and clothes?) or by the deceitfulness of riches (not riches themselves, but trusting in and chasing after them.) This person also doesn't follow through in his relationship with Christ.

#### SUN, ROCKS, THORNS AND GROWTH

*But he that received seed into the good ground is he that heareth the word, and understandeth it; which also beareth fruit, and bringeth forth, some an hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty.* (Matthew 13:23.) If you're stagnating, not growing in certain areas of your life, don't blame your circumstances. The same sun beat down on these plants. The same thorns tried to suffocate them. The same stones wanted to prevent the roots from growing well. But these people decided to follow through with God's will for their lives. They sank their roots deep down into Jesus. They allowed God to deal with their hearts. They cultivated their relationship with Christ.

#### CHANGING 'ALMOST' TO 'COMPLETELY'

Are there areas of your life in which you can identify with Agrippa? Or with Pilate? Not giving God exactly what His Word asks for? Are you allowing stones in your heart which make it difficult for you to sink your roots deeply into Christ? Or are you allowing the thorns of worry or discontentment to suffocate the simplicity of your relationship with Christ?

We need to believe what God wants us to believe, and do what He wants us to do, not "almost," but completely. Almost isn't enough. We don't want to only go half way with the Lord in any area. We want to fulfill His will and be able to say with Paul, "I've fought a good fight, I've finished my course, I've kept the faith." (2 Timothy 4:7)

Where are the almoses in your life? Let God show you where they are, and by His Spirit, you must change them into completelies.

Copyright Notice: You are welcome to make copies of these messages for free distribution to friends. However, for all other forms of reproduction, or electronic transmission, existing copyright laws apply. © 2006 Ministerio La Fuente, All Rights Reserved



[thewellhonduras.org](http://thewellhonduras.org)

We want to serve you in your walk with Christ. Feel free to contact us!

"IF ANYONE THIRST, LET THEM COME TO ME AND DRINK"- JESUS  
(JOHN 7:37)