

Acts
Sharing Christ with Boldness
Acts 25-26

Glossophobia is the fear of public speaking. It could stem from insecurity, fear of judgment, past negative experiences, or an introverted personality. It could be stage fright, an anxiety that paralyzes a person when they are performing in front of a group. A quick search will uncover all kinds of remedies for these anxieties. Number one is “be prepared: practice, practice, practice.” It is interesting though that no one has to practice talking with a group of friends about whatever is they are passionate about, like sports, the weather, Harry Potter, or the myriad of topics that are available for small talk.

1. Our union with Christ introduces a reasonable defense.
2. Our union with Christ initiates a radical transformation.
3. Our union with Christ instigates a robust persuasion.

What Agrippa and Festus did not understand and probably never realized was that in Christ's economy, Paul had been the judge and they had been the prisoners on trial. They had been shown the light and the path to freedom, but they were not persuaded. Paul would go to Rome and trouble them no more. He would go to Rome and never have to face the accusations of the Jews again. But Agrippa and Festus would continue to live in their sin and although this trial was over, their sentence was still to come. And so it is with every gospel conversation and with all who reject the hope of eternal life offered through faith in the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus.

For further consideration:

What do you think it means to defend one's faith? What do you think the prerequisites are for doing it successfully? Why is the word *witness* a good summary of Paul's life and ministry? How would you characterize and summarize Paul's defense in Acts 25 and then again in Acts 26. Do you notice any difference in the way he spoke with Festus and the way he spoke with Agrippa? What do you think Paul's attitude was toward these men. What should characterize our attitude toward people who are lost and questioning our faith? What about those who are lost and hostile to our faith? How has the gospel impacted your life since your conversion? Who can you share your story with this week?