

AUGUST 15

## “ITS NOT YOUR GOSPEL OR YOUR MESSAGE OR YOUR POWER.”

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### **READ**

*Acts 26:24-29, Colossians 2:9-10*

Paul is in chains, being questioned by Agrippa. Paul is articulate and compelling about his faith. Agrippa stops him and says, “Do you think you can turn me into a Christian this quickly?” Another translation says, “You’ve almost persuaded me to be a Christian.” Paul says, “I just want you and everybody else ‘to become what I am.’ ” Now, wait a minute. Why did he not say, “I want you and everybody else to be like Jesus?” I think it takes a crucified man who is confident of God to say, “I want you to be what I am.” Think about how many times we’ve had enough confidence to say to family members or fellow workers, “I want you to be like me.” We don’t, because we still have such tremendous reservations about who we are and where we stand. In Colossians, the Bible shares that you are complete in Him who is the head over all principality and power. There it is: You are complete in Him. Paul knew that it wasn’t Paul standing before Herod Agrippa; it wasn’t Paul’s Gospel, Paul’s message, or Paul’s power. Paul was just the cup. He was the mouthpiece. He was the instrument through which Jesus Christ was speaking, and living, so he could confidently say, “You can be what I am, because I am what He is.”

### **PRAY**

Jesus, teach me who I am in You. Let my identity rest in who You are. Remind me that I can be confident because I am complete in You.

*From October 19, 2003*