



## Elevator Speech

*"I Don't Believe That..."* (Acts 26:1-29)

by Pastor David Hillis, 21 February 2016

**BIG IDEA:** People open up to God in life when we are open about the God in ours.

- If you were to tell a story of the most *pivotal* moments in your life, those moments that really *defined* you – *which* ones would they be?
  - Was *God* at work in those moments?
  - What was He *doing*?

### Paul's Elevator Speech with King Agrippa:

#### 1. Paul values him as a person.

- He valued Agrippa's beliefs, his way of seeing things.
- He doesn't put Agrippa's faith, or his *lack of faith*, down. Instead, Paul says how "fortunate" he is to be able to talk to him.

#### 2. Paul shares his story.

- Paul knows his story well, he's thought about it, and how God used it, many times.

#### 3. Paul explains how his life is better with Jesus in it.

- With all his heart, he says what he believes Christ did, and how it changed *his* life forever, for the better.
- Paul wasn't arguing one faith versus another. He was using an opportunity when God opened a door – an opportunity where he could share a little bit about God in *his* life so that God could use it to work in their lives.

#### 4. Paul relates his story to the person he's sharing it with.

- He connects his story to Agrippa on a personal level, and Agrippa's response does not discourage him.
- It wasn't Paul's job to make Agrippa a Christian, and it's not your job to convince anyone of anything either.
- Your job, Jesus said in Acts 1:8, is to be a witness to what you've seen, what you've heard, what you know. *That's all.*

### ***MY NEXT STEP***

*Do you know anyone in your life today going through something God has already brought you through? Can you find an opportunity to listen, and tell them about it?*

### ***OR MY PERSONAL TIME WITH GOD THIS WEEK:***

1. Review Acts 25 & 26 this week. Why do you think Agrippa was curious about Paul's story? If you were in that auditorium that day, what impressions would you have had of Paul as he told his story?
2. Read John 1:14. Most people today who don't personally know Christ have a "beheld" problem; they haven't beheld Jesus as He really is, they only have a distorted picture formed by their own experiences. How could the story of your life help someone see Jesus as He really is, perhaps for the very first time?
3. Read 1 Peter 3:15 and Colossians 4:2-6. Can you think of times in the recent past where there was an opportunity to share a story of God's working in your life that you missed because you weren't ready to share it? Think about that story now, and ask God to give you another opportunity to share it with someone who can benefit from it.
4. This week, take some time to be alone with God and your thoughts, and think about how you might one day encourage someone with one of the stories God has given you. Take 15 minutes to share that story with others online at [www.whatsmystory.org](http://www.whatsmystory.org), for others to be blessed by it in the years to come.

### ***ELEVATOR SPEECH TAKEAWAY IDEAS SO FAR:***

1. Our friends find faith when we *have* friends outside of faith.
2. People don't care what you *believe* until they believe that you *care*.
3. People open up to *God* in life when *we* are open about the God in *ours*.