

# Persuaded

— Almost vs. Fully —

- The Danger of Being Almost Persuaded
- The Power of Being Fully Persuaded
- Contrast Between Almost and Fully Persuaded
- The Call to Be Fully Persuaded Today

In every generation, God's Word **Calls** men and women, to **Decide**,  
— **NOT** halfway, **NOT** almost, but **FULLY**.

This lesson, contrasts those who are **Almost** persuaded, with those who are **Fully** persuaded,  
— showing what **True** faith and obedience look like.

Let's begin by understanding,

## I. The Danger of Being Almost Persuaded

To see this danger clearly, we start with one of the saddest statements ever spoken, which was,

### A. Agrippa's Response to the Gospel

Paul stood before King Agrippa and boldly testified of Christ, calling him to repentance and faith.

- But "Agrippa said unto Paul, **Almost** thou **PERSUADEST** me, to be a Christian." ([Acts 26:28](#))

How tragic, to stand at the very edge of salvation, and yet turn away!

The Bible says,

- "Behold, **NOW** is the accepted time; behold, **NOW** is the day of salvation." ([2Cor.6:2](#))

Explanation:

- Agrippa believed the message intellectually, but never yielded his will.
- He was moved—but he didn't seize, his day of salvation.

To delay obedience, is to reject the call of Christ.

To be **Almost Persuaded**, is to be **Completely Lost**.

Another ruler, also heard the truth, but delayed his decision,  
thinking he could choose a better time, which was,

### B. Felix's Convenient Season

Felix listened, as Paul reasoned of righteousness, self-control, and judgment.

- But he said, "**Go thy way for this time**;  
when I have a **Convenient Season**, I will call for thee." ([Acts 24:25](#))

The Bible says,

- "Boast not thyself of to morrow; for thou knowest not, what a day may bring forth." ([Prov.27:1](#))

Explanation:

- Felix trembled, but refused to act.
- The "better time" never came, which is why procrastination, is one of Satan's most subtle traps.

The road to hell, is paved with good intentions, that are never carried out.

Israel's history further illustrates, how people can repeatedly hear God's truth, yet refuse to obey, which was,

### C. Israel's Repeated Rejection

Scripture reminds us, of God's view.

- "All day long I have **stretched forth My hands**, unto a disobedient and gainsaying people (meaning, they spoke against & opposed God)." ([Rom.10:21](#))
- "I have called, and ye refused; I have **stretched out My hand**, and no man regarded." ([Prov.1:24](#))

Explanation:

- God pleaded with His people, yet they rejected His hand of mercy.
- Persistent refusal, eventually invites judgment.

When we ignore God's voice, our hearts grow harder, not softer ([Eph.4:18-19](#); [2Thess.2:10-12](#)).

Finally, let's consider what one loses, by remaining almost persuaded, which is,

### D. The Cost of "Almost"

The Bible says,

- "**Love NOT** the world, **NEITHER** the things that are in the world. **IF any man love the world**, the love of the Father is NOT in him." ([1Jn.2:15](#) [Jas.4:4](#))
- "The care of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, **Choke** the word." ([Matt.13:22](#))
- "**For what is a man profited**, if he shall gain the whole world, and **Lose his own soul**?" ([Matt.16:26](#))

Explanation:

- Distractions and worldly attachments, keep many from full obedience.
- The "almost persuaded" try to serve two masters ([Matt.6:24](#))—and lose both.

**To trade eternity for temporary comfort, is the most expensive bargain, ever made.**

Having seen the danger of being almost persuaded, Let's now consider the blessing and...

## II. The Power of Being Fully Persuaded

We begin with,

### A. Abraham's Example of Faith

—which shines as a model of Full persuasion.

- "He **Staggered NOT** at the promise of God through unbelief ...being **FULLY Persuaded**." ([Rom.4:20-21](#))
- "**By Faith** Abraham, when he was called... **OBEYED**." (read [Heb.11:8](#))
- "Who against hope, **Believed in Hope**..." ([Rom.4:18a](#))

Explanation:

- Abraham trusted God's promise, though it seemed impossible.
- True persuasion acts, even when sight cannot confirm ([2Cor.5:7](#)).

Faith that cannot be tested, cannot be trusted ([Jas.1:2-4](#); [1Pet.1:6-7](#)).

Like Abraham, we see full conviction, that God would keep His word, through,

## B. Paul's Confidence IN Christ

He said,

- "...I am Not ashamed: for **I know Whom I have believed**, and **am PERSUADED** that He is able, to keep that which I have committed unto Him, against that day." ([2Tim.1:12](#))
- "**none of these things move me**, neither count I my life dear unto myself, so that I might **finish my course with joy**, and the ministry, which I have received of the Lord Jesus, to testify the gospel of the grace of God." ([Acts 20:24](#))
- "For to me to live IS Christ, and to die IS Gain." ([Phil.1:21](#))

Explanation:

- Paul's assurance, came from knowing Christ personally, not theoretically.
- His persuasion, gave him endurance through suffering.

Knowing Christ, removes fear of the unknown ([Rom.8:31-39](#)).

We can see a demonstration, of how genuine persuasion changes lives, through,

## C. The Thessalonians' Obedient Faith

The Bible says,

- "Ye **Turned to God** from idols, to **Serve the living and true God**." ([1Thess.1:9](#))
- "Our **Gospel**, came not unto you in word only, but also (**came**) **in Power**." ([1Thess.1:5](#))
- "...for it is the **Power of God** unto salvation to every one that believeth;" ([Rom.1:16b](#))

Explanation:

- Their obedience, proved their persuasion.
- The gospel changes hearts, that fully believe.

Faith that Saves, always Serves.

Above all,

## D. Jesus' Example of Complete Obedience

—Is our perfect example of Full persuasion.

The Bible says,

- "He humbled Himself, ...**Obedient unto Death**, even the death of the cross." ([Phil.2:8](#))

He said unto God the Father

- "Not My will, but Thine, be done." ([Lk.22:42](#))
- "Though He were a Son, yet learned He **Obedience**, by the things which He suffered." ([Heb.5:8](#))

Explanation:

- The complete obedience of Christ, purchased our redemption ([Eph.1:7](#); [Rom.5:8-9](#)).
- So, the fully persuaded, follow His steps, regardless of cost.

**Full persuasion, means Full surrender** ([Gal.2:20](#); [Rom.12:1-2](#); [Phil.3:7-8](#)).

Now that we have seen examples of both, let's compare,

### III. The Contrast, Between Almost and Fully Persuaded

First, the difference between,

#### A. Mind vs. Heart

The Bible says,

- “With the **Heart**, man believeth unto righteousness;” ([Rom.10:10a](#))
- Jesus said, “This people **Honoureth Me** with their lips, but their **Heart** is far from Me.” ([Mk.7:6](#))

Explanation:

- Head knowledge, must travel to the heart ([Prov.3:5-6](#); [Matt.22:37-38](#); [Acts 28:27](#)).
- God measures works of righteousness in sincerity, not empty speech.

Next, we see the difference between,

#### B. Hearing vs. Doing

Jesus said,

- “He that **Heareth** these sayings of Mine, and **Doeth them NOT**, is like a foolish man.” ([Matt.7:26](#))

James proclaimed,

- “Be ye **Doers** of the Word, and **NOT** hearers only, deceiving your own selves.” ([Jas.1:22](#))

Explanation:

- Obedience, distinguishes the wise, from the foolish.
- Hearing without doing, is self-deception.

Thirdly, let's look into...

#### C. Admiring vs. Following

—the almost persuaded, **Admire** Jesus; the fully persuaded, **Follow** Him.

Jesus said,

- “**IF** any man **Will** come after Me, let him **DENY himself.**” ([Lk.9:23](#))
- “**Why Call ye Me, Lord, Lord**, and **Do NOT** the things which I say?” ([Lk.6:46](#))

Explanation:

- Admiration costs nothing; discipleship costs everything.

Finally, the Focus Differs, between the **Almost** and **Fully** Persuaded;

—one lives for Today, the other lives for Eternity, which is...

#### D. Temporal vs. Eternal Focus

The Bible says,

- “The things which are seen are **Temporal**; the things which are not seen are **Eternal.**” ([2Cor.4:18](#))
- “Lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal.” ([Matt.6:20](#))

Explanation:

- Worldly goals Fade; heavenly treasures Endure.
- Full persuasion, looks beyond time, into Eternity.

Having seen the difference, we now turn to,

## IV. The Call, to Be Fully Persuaded, Today

The call begins with, understanding God's heart.

### A. God's Desire is for All to Be Saved

- Who "...is longsuffering to us-ward, **NOT willing, that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.**" ([2Pet.3:9](#))
- "**Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth.**" ([1Tim.2:4](#))

Explanation:

- Every lost soul matters to God.
- **His invitation extends to all, without partiality, but with conditions** ([Acts 10:34-35](#); [Rom.2:6-11](#)).

Because God's desire is for all, His invitation carries,

### B. The Urgency of Today

- "...behold, **NOW** is the accepted time; behold, NOW is the day of salvation." ([2Cor.6:2b](#))
- "**To day if ye will hear His voice, harden NOT your hearts...**" ([Heb.3:15](#))

Explanation:

- Time is not promised.
- The soul that waits, risks eternity.

True persuasion always produces,

### C. The Faith that Obeys

The Bible states,

- "**He became the author of eternal salvation, unto all them that OBEY Him.**" ([Heb.5:9](#))
- James reminds us that, "...**Faith without works is Dead.**" ([Jas.2:26b](#); [Jas.2:24](#))
- Jesus said, "**IF ye love Me, KEEP My commandments.**" ([Jn.14:15](#))

Explanation:

- Obedience is love in action.
- Saving faith, obeys without hesitation.

And for those who are fully persuaded, God promises eternal reward, which is...

### D. The Blessing of Full Commitment

- Paul said, "I have **Fought a good fight, I have Finished my course, I have KEPT the Faith: Henceforth there is laid up for me a Crown of Righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also, that Love His Appearing.**" ([2Tim.4:7-8](#))
- Jesus said, "**Be thou Faithful unto death, and I will give thee a Crown of Life.**" ([Rev.2:10](#))

Explanation:

- The **fully persuaded** walk with confidence, knowing heaven awaits the faithful ([Heb.10:35-36](#); [1Pet.1:3-4](#)).

The almost persuaded **Admire Truth**, but never act upon it.  
The fully persuaded **OBEY Truth**, because they love the Lord.

There is no neutral ground.

Long ago, the prophet Elijah, told the people of God in the Old Testament days,

- “How long halt ye, between two opinions?  
if the Lord be God, follow Him: but if Baal, then follow him.  
And the people answered him, not a word.” ([1Kings 18:21](#))

## V. Some Closing Thoughts

God’s Word **Exposes** indecision and **Invites** devotion.

The question for each of us remains:

- Are we **Almost** persuaded or **Fully** surrendered?

Jesus said,

- “**Come** unto Me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and **I will give you rest.**” ([Matt.11:28](#))

To the unbelievers, Jesus said,

- “He that believeth **AND** is baptized shall be **SAVED.**” ([Mk.16:16](#))

The unfaithful believers, were told,

- “Repent, **AND** be baptized every one of you,  
in the name of Jesus Christ, for the **REMISSION** of sins...” ([Acts 2:38](#))

The almost persuaded delay—the fully persuaded obey.

Choose today—eternity waits on your decision.

Come without delay, while we stand and sing.