

PAUL'S EXAMPLE OF DEFENDING THE FAITH

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Introduction: The book of Acts is a divine history book on the early church. The teachings of Christ were not known yet throughout the world. As Paul expanded the church throughout many of the then-known world, Paul presented the facts of Christ and then defended them.

From Paul's examples we are able to gain confidence and assurance in our defending the faith.

1. PAUL'S METHODS OF DEFENDING THE FAITH

A. He “reasoned” (Acts 17:2,17; 18:4,19; 19:8-9; 24:12,25)

(Gr. “dialegomai” meaning “to discuss or conduct a discussion which is likely to end in a dispute.”)

B. He made a “defense” (Acts 19:33; 22:1; 24:10; 25:8; 26:1,2,24)

(Gr. “apologia” meaning “to give a verbal defense against a charge.”)

C. He spoke trying to “persuade” (Acts 13:43; 14:19; 18:4; 19:8,26; 21:14; 26:26,28; 28:23)

(Gr. “peitho” meaning “to convince, persuade, or influence with facts toward a belief.”)

D. He “answered” (Acts 21:13; 25:8,9,12,16; 26:1)

(Gr. “apokrinomai” meaning “a legal term of responding or replying to certain present circumstances with facts from outside the situation.”)

E. He “testified” (Acts 18:5; 20:21)

(Gr. “diamarturomai” meaning “to make a solemn and earnest affirmation or testimony”)

F. He “refuted” (Acts 18:28)

(Gr. “diakatelegchieto” meaning “to maintain discussion strenuously and thoroughly.”)

2. PAUL'S SITUATIONS IN DEFENDING THE FAITH

A. He went into the synagogue where he had opportunity to talk to the Jews, (Acts 17:1-2).

B. He made contact with philosophers in the market place, (Acts 17:18-32).

C. He was on his way to interrogation by a local official, (Acts 21:33-22:1).

D. He was before the city council, (Acts 23:1).

E. He was before the governor (Felix), (Acts 24:10).

F. He was before the regional ruler (Festus), (Acts 25:10).

G. He was before the king (Agrippa), (Acts 26:1).

Conclusion: If Paul faced these kind of people in the world serving the Lord we can be assured we will also. If Paul was able to share the things of the Lord with them and not worry about the results we should also.