



How could Paul have authenticated his Apostleship?

<p>He could bring signs and wonders 🍌</p> <p>He could "love bomb" them 😍</p>	<p>He did not have to do anything 😞</p> <p>He could call down God's wrath on them 😡</p>
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God may have touched Paul's life if -

Galatians 1

“¹⁰ For am I now seeking the favor of men, or of God? Or am I striving to please men? If I were still trying to please men, I would not be a bond-servant of Christ.”

The flesh	1	The Spirit
finds security in people		finds security with God
- his new direction did not involve personal self-interest.		

2 Corinthians 4

“⁷ But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the surpassing greatness of the power may be of God and not from ourselves; ⁸ we are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not despairing; ⁹ persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; ¹⁰ always carrying about in the body the dying of Jesus, that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our body. ¹¹ For we who live are constantly being delivered over to death for Jesus' sake, that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our mortal flesh. ¹² So death works in us, but life in you.”

Paul's "abundant Christian life" was not comfortable.

God may have touched Paul's life if -

Galatians 1

“¹¹ For I would have you know, brethren, that the gospel which was preached by me is not according to man. ¹² For I neither received it from man, nor was I taught it, but {I received it} through a revelation of Jesus Christ.”

The flesh	2	The Spirit
repeats what is learned from man		knows from intimate contact with God
- his experience of God was deeply personal and intimate.		

Ephesians 3:3-5

“that by revelation there was made known to me the mystery, . . . which in other generations was not made known to the sons of men, as it has now been revealed to His holy apostles and prophets in the Spirit;”

God may have touched Paul’s life if -

Galatians 1

“¹³ For you have heard of my former manner of life in Judaism, how I used to persecute the church of God beyond measure, and tried to destroy it; ¹⁴ and I was advancing in Judaism beyond many of my contemporaries among my countrymen, being more extremely zealous for my ancestral traditions.”

The flesh	3	The Spirit
makes superficial changes		makes radical changes
- his experience of God changed the fundamental direction of his life.		

Philippians 3

“⁷ But whatever things were gain to me, those things I have counted as loss for the sake of Christ. ⁸ More than that, I count all things to be loss in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them but rubbish in order that I may gain Christ, ⁹ and may be found in Him, not having a righteousness of my own derived from the Law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which {comes} from God on the basis of faith, ¹⁰ that I may know Him, and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death;”

God may have touched Paul’s life if -

Galatians 1

“¹⁵ But when He who had set me apart, even from my mother’s womb, and called me through His grace, was pleased ¹⁶ to reveal His Son in me, that I might preach Him among the Gentiles, I did not immediately consult with flesh and blood, ¹⁷ nor did I go up to Jerusalem to those who were apostles before me; but I went away to Arabia, and returned once more to Damascus. ¹⁸ Then three years later I went up to Jerusalem to become acquainted with Cephas, and stayed with him fifteen days. ¹⁹ But I did not see any other of the apostles except James, the Lord’s brother.”

The flesh	4	The Spirit
can be explained naturally		is hard to explain in the natural
- his experience of God defies a natural explanation.		

Acts 8

“¹⁸ Now when Simon saw that the Spirit was bestowed through the laying on of the apostles’ hands, he offered them money, ¹⁹ saying, "Give this authority to me as well, so that everyone on whom I lay my hands may receive the Holy Spirit." ²⁰ But Peter said to him, "May your silver perish with you, because you thought you could obtain the gift of God with money! ²¹ "You have no part or portion in this matter, for your heart is not right before God.”

Apostolic authority can’t be learned through, bought from, or bestowed by man.

God may have touched Paul’s life if -

Galatians 1

“²⁰ (Now in what I am writing to you, I assure you before God that I am not lying.) ²¹ Then I went into the regions of Syria and Cilicia. ²² And I was {still} unknown by sight to the churches of Judea which were in Christ; ²³ but only, they kept hearing, "He who once persecuted us is now preaching the faith which he once tried to destroy." ²⁴ And they were glorifying God because of me.”

The flesh	5	The Spirit
has a title without a testimony		has a testimony apart from the title
- a Godly change is seen and reported by others.		

1 Thessalonians 1

“6 You also became imitators of us and of the Lord, having received the word in much tribulation with the joy of the Holy Spirit, 7 so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia. 8 For the word of the Lord has sounded forth from you, not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but also in every place your faith toward God has gone forth, so that we have no need to say anything. 9 For they themselves report about us what kind of a reception we had with you, and how you turned to God from idols to serve a living and true God, 10 and to wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, {that is} Jesus, who delivers us from the wrath to come.”

God’s Spirit creates a testimony.

God may have touched your life if -

Your new direction does not involve personal self-interests.

Your experience involved intimate, personal, contact with God.

Your experience involved a radical direction change in life.

There is no naturalistic explanation for what you experienced.

Others see a dramatic Godly change in your life.

Jesus’ Resurrection

Not expected

Credible witnesses

No natural explanation

Changed lives



The empty tomb

Our testimony

No selfish advantage?

Changed life?

No natural explanation?

Observation of others?



Personal encounter?