

Questionnaire

1. How long have you been a Christian for?
2. How would you rate your walk with God at the moment?
3. What are three times of trouble/suffering that stand out to you?
4. What was God's role as you walked through those times?
5. When have you genuinely lived out:
 1. Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.
Matthew 10:39
6. What was one of your high points in your relationship with God?
7. What were you doing when you were doing well?
8. How difficult is your struggle at the moment?
9. Why are you in church today?
10. Remember what it was like when you first became a Christian. What would you have done for God?

hope



PART 35:

Enduring Certainty

HEBREWS

PAY CLOSE ATTENTION, LEST YOU DRIFT

Hebrews 10:32-39

But recall the former days when, after you were enlightened, you endured a hard struggle with sufferings, sometimes being publicly exposed to reproach and affliction, and sometimes being partners with those so treated. For you had compassion on those in prison, and you joyfully accepted the plundering of your property, since you knew that you yourselves had a better possession and an abiding one. Therefore do not throw away your confidence, which has a great reward. For you have need of endurance, so that when you have done the will of God you may receive what is promised. For, "Yet a little while, and the coming one will come and will not delay; but my righteous one shall live by faith, and if he shrinks back, my soul has no pleasure in him." But we are not of those who shrink back and are destroyed, but of those who have faith and preserve their souls.

hope

Enduring Certainty (Hope)

1. Suffering is a contest
2. Real trouble reveals your real hope
3. Tapping out of suffering is not who you are

hope

1. Suffering is a contest

- But recall the former days when, after you were enlightened, you endured a hard struggle with sufferings ... Hebrews 10:32
 - Literally – ‘you endured a great contest with sufferings’
- Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God. Hebrews 12:1–2

hope

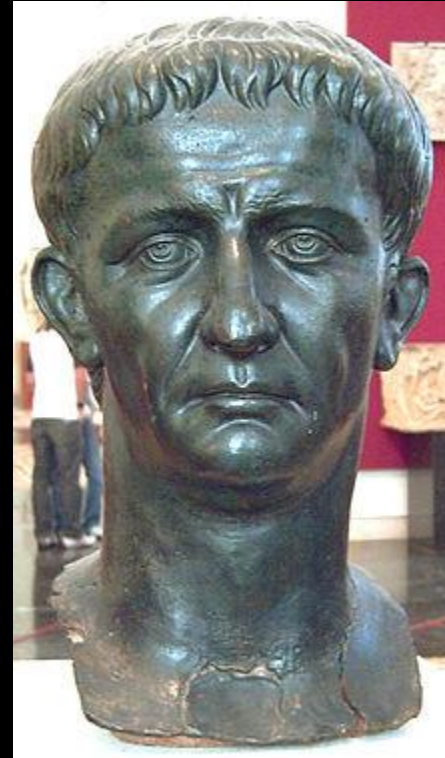
Their Contest

... sometimes being publicly exposed to reproach and affliction, and sometimes being partners with those so treated. For you had compassion on those in prison, and you joyfully accepted the plundering of your property ... Hebrews 10:33–34

hope

What the Author Could Be Referring to ...

- Eight years later when the restrictions were not accomplishing what he had planned – Suetonius (roman historian born 70ad) “they were constantly indulging in riots at the instigation of Chrestus”
- The trouble according to Suetonius was when Christianity was introduced into the Jewish colony in Rome
- So ... he expelled the Jews from Rome
 - After this Paul left Athens and went to Corinth. And he found a Jew named Aquila, a native of Pontus, recently come from Italy with his wife Priscilla, because Claudius had commanded all the Jews to leave Rome. Acts 18:1–2
- When the Jews in Alexandria had to leave four wards and be in only one Philo (Hellenistic Jewish philosopher born 20BC) wrote “Their enemies overran the houses now left empty and began to loot them, dividing up the contents like spoils of war.”



nope

2. Real Trouble Reveals Your Real Hope

- For you had compassion on those in prison, and you joyfully accepted the plundering of your property, since you knew that you yourselves had a better possession and an abiding one. Therefore do not throw away your confidence, which has a great reward. For you have need of endurance, so that when you have done the will of God you may receive what is promised. Hebrews 10:34–36
- “Blessed are you when people hate you and when they exclude you and revile you and spurn your name as evil, on account of the Son of Man! Rejoice in that day, and leap for joy, for behold, your reward is great in heaven; for so their fathers did to the prophets. Luke 6:22–23

hope

Graham Staines

ADDITION

CNN.com

MAIN PAGE

WORLD

[africa](#)

[americas](#)

[asianow](#)

[europe](#)

[middle east](#)

[U.S.](#)

[LOCAL](#)

[POLITICS](#)

[WEATHER](#)

[BUSINESS](#)

[SPORTS](#)

[TECHNOLOGY](#)

[NATURE](#)

[ENTERTAINMENT](#)

[BOOKS](#)

[TRAVEL](#)

[FOOD](#)

[HEALTH](#)

[STYLE](#)

[IN-DEPTH](#)

[custom news](#)

[Headline News brief](#)

[daily almanac](#)

[CNN networks](#)

[CNN programs](#)

world > asia-pacific > story page

Christian missionary, young sons burned to death in India

Hindu militants being held in attack

January 23, 1999
Web posted at: 6:04 p.m. EST (2304 GMT)

[MANOHARPUR, India](#) (CNN) -- Five militant Hindus have been arrested for allegedly burning to death an Australian Christian missionary and his two young sons as they slept in their vehicle early Saturday morning.

Graham Stewart Stains, 58, secretary of the New Delhi-based Evangelical Missionary Society, and his sons, Philip, 10, and Timothy, 8, died after a crowd of more than 30 people doused their vehicle with kerosene and set it ablaze outside a makeshift church in the town of Manoharpur in the eastern state of Orissa, according to police and witnesses.

Stains' sons had come to India from Australia for a vacation. The missionary had arrived from a neighboring town, Baripada, to attend a meeting at the church. His wife and daughter had stayed in Baripada.

Police arrested five members of the Bajrang Dal, a militant group

hope

Gladys Staines

- "The Lord God is always with me to guide me and help me to try to accomplish the work of Graham, but I sometimes wonder why Graham was killed and also what made his assassins to behave in such a brutal manner on the night of 22nd / 23rd January, 1999. It is far from my mind to punish the persons who were responsible for the death of my husband Graham and my two children. But it is my desire and hope that they would repent and would be reformed."
- "In forgiveness, there is no bitterness and when there is no bitterness, there is hope. This consolation comes from Jesus Christ." Christ, she said, gave her the "strength" to continue living. "I live in the hope that whenever God calls me home, I will see God but also be reunited with my family."

hope

But ... Heaven

“Earth can’t keep its promises,
but aren’t you glad Heaven
does?” Joni Eareckson Tada



nope

Randy Alcorn on Heaven

After 25 years of research

“... bright, vibrant, and physical new earth, free from sin, suffering, and death, and brimming with Christ’s presence, wondrous natural beauty, and the richness of human culture as God intended it ... real bodies enjoying close relationships with God and each other, eating, drinking, working, playing, travelling, worshipping, and discovering on a new earth. Earth as God created it. Earth as he intended it to be.”

hope

3. Tapping Out is not Your Identity

... we are not of those who shrink back and are destroyed, but of those who have faith and preserve their souls. Hebrews 10:39

You always live out of your identity

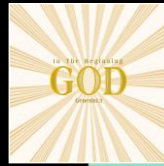
hope

Fear, Pressure, Anxiety and Identity Shift



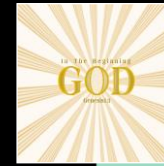
God Doesn't Exist

- Atheist
- We are on our own



Distant and Removed

- Deist
- We are functionally on our own



Father In the Details

- Christian
- We have a benevolent, providential Father orchestrating events

hope

Identity Amnesia

- ... make every effort to supplement your faith with virtue, and virtue with knowledge, and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with steadfastness, and steadfastness with godliness, and godliness with brotherly affection, and brotherly affection with love. For if these qualities are yours and are increasing, they keep you from being ineffective or unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.
- For whoever lacks these qualities is so nearsighted that he is blind, having forgotten that he was cleansed from his former sins. 2 Peter 1:5–9

hope

Paul Tripp

In the press of everyday life, it is easy to forget who we are ... the longer we struggle with a problem, the more likely we are to be defined by that problem (divorced, addicted, depressed, co-dependent, ADD). We come to believe that our problem is who we are. But while these labels may describe particular ways we struggle as sinners in a fallen world, they are not our identity! If we allow them to define us, we will live trapped within their boundaries. This is no way for a child of God to live.

hope