

Hebrews
11:35b-40

1

1. God is sovereign over life and death.
2. Only a handful of people have been brought back from the dead, yet all who are in Christ can expect an even better and resurrection.

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What do being raised from the dead by faith and dying for the faith have in common?

Faith

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They knew that obedience to God was better than life itself.

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Though the enemies of God saw the murder of a Christian as a victory, it is actually the Christian who is still victorious even in death.

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Acts 7:59

"And as they were stoning Stephen, he called out, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit."

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Could God allow such suffering among Christians today? Has God allowed such suffering among Christians in the past?

This section of scripture reminds us that God is sovereign over all aspects of life including any suffering and even our death.

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Philippians 1:27-29

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For the Christian, belief in the gospel is given to us by God, but also suffering.

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Suffering was not a foreign concept to the Old Testament believers or the New Testament believers.

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Hebrews 10:32-36

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John 16:33

"I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world."

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How could they have peace even though tribulation was coming?

How can you have peace, knowing that tribulation is a real possibility?

Because Jesus has overcome the world.

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2 Chronicles 36:15-16

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How did the people take his message to repent and to turn from their wickedness?

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Jeremiah 20:7

"I have become a laughingstock all the day; everyone mocks me."

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Jeremiah 26:20-23

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Jeremiah 37:15-17

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Jeremiah 38:6

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2 Chronicles 24:18-21

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What did Zechariah do wrong to deserve getting stoned to death?

Nothing, he was faithful to God.

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Mark 1:6

"Now John was clothed with camel's hair and wore a leather belt around his waist and ate locusts and wild honey."

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Luke 7:18-29

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Mark 6:27-29

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True faith trusts God through
both tragedy and triumph.

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Series: Hebrews

Sermon: Hebrews 11:35b-40

- 1. The Bible warns us that hardships are normative in the Christian life. Why do you think that many Christians are so shocked when they are suddenly faced with suffering, tribulation, mockery, etc.?**

- 2. Read 1 Peter 4:12-18. A. What should our reaction be, and what should our reaction not be when we face difficult trials?**

B. Read verse 19. Whose will is it for the Christian to suffer, and how do we process this difficult truth?

- 3. Read Romans 8:17-18. Paul faced an extreme amount of affliction in his life, yet he never lost faith. Is this verse helpful in understanding why? How can it help you in your time of need? _____**
- 4. We should seek help and comfort from other Christians during hardship. However, all friends do not give good advice. See Job 16:15**

and Job 42:7-9. What are some ways that you could be a help another believer who is in a time of suffering? List several.

- 5. Read over these points of review. Feel free to add more.**

During pain and suffering:

1. Don't change your mind about who God is.
2. Don't compare your pain and suffering to others.
3. Don't spend much time on the "Why?" question.
4. Don't try to deny that the pain or suffering is real. It is ok to grieve.
5. Don't forget that God is still in control.

During pain and suffering we should:

1. Pray for strength to persevere.
2. Trust in God.
3. Confess and repent of any unconfessed sin.
4. Stay in Church.
5. Stay connected to mature believers.
6. Realize that all pain and suffering are temporary.
7. Recall those in the OT, NT, and others who were faithful, yet suffered greatly.
8. Remember that this is not your eternal home.
9. Face your hardship through the lens of the hope we have in Christ!