

PH

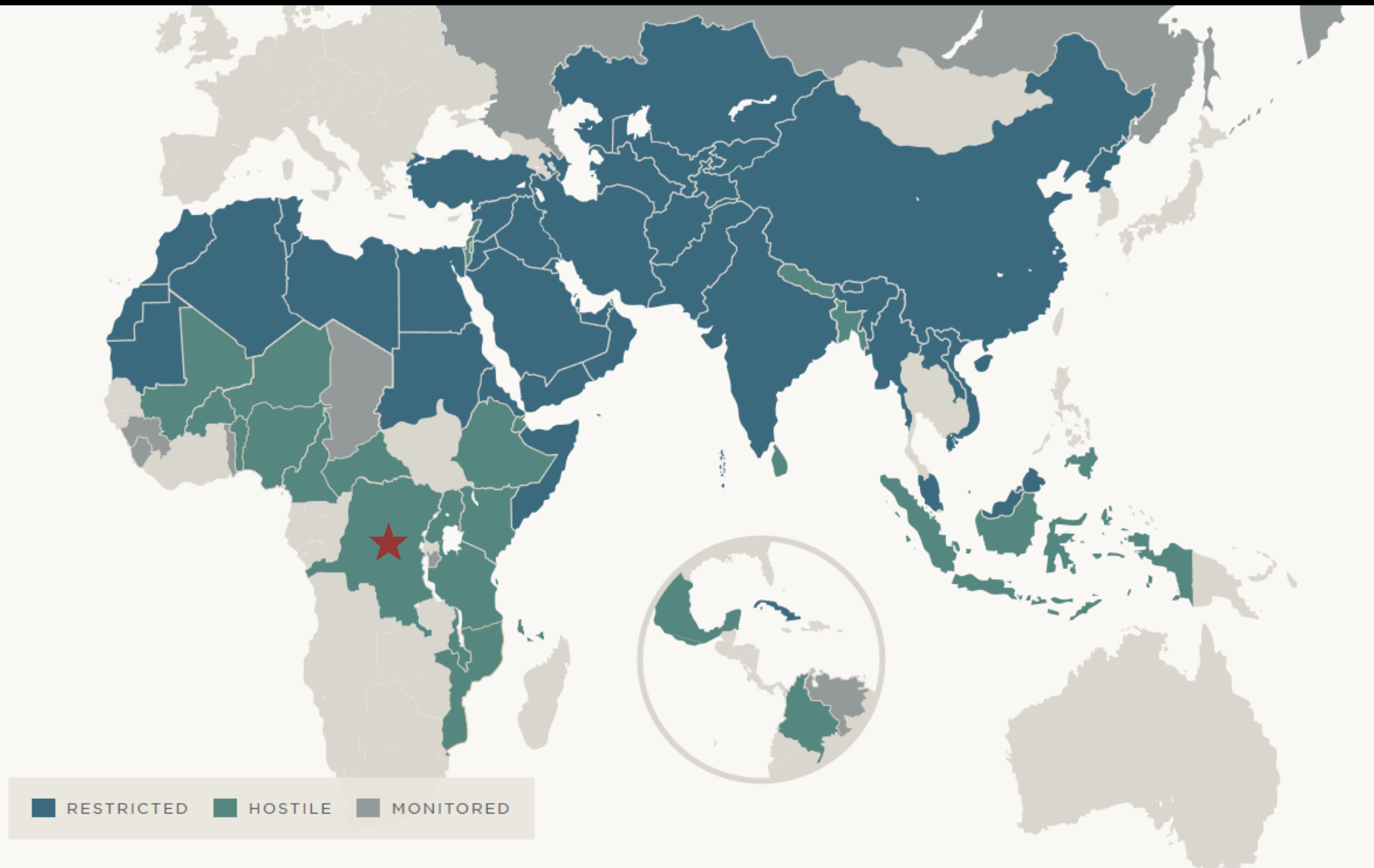


Pleasant Hill

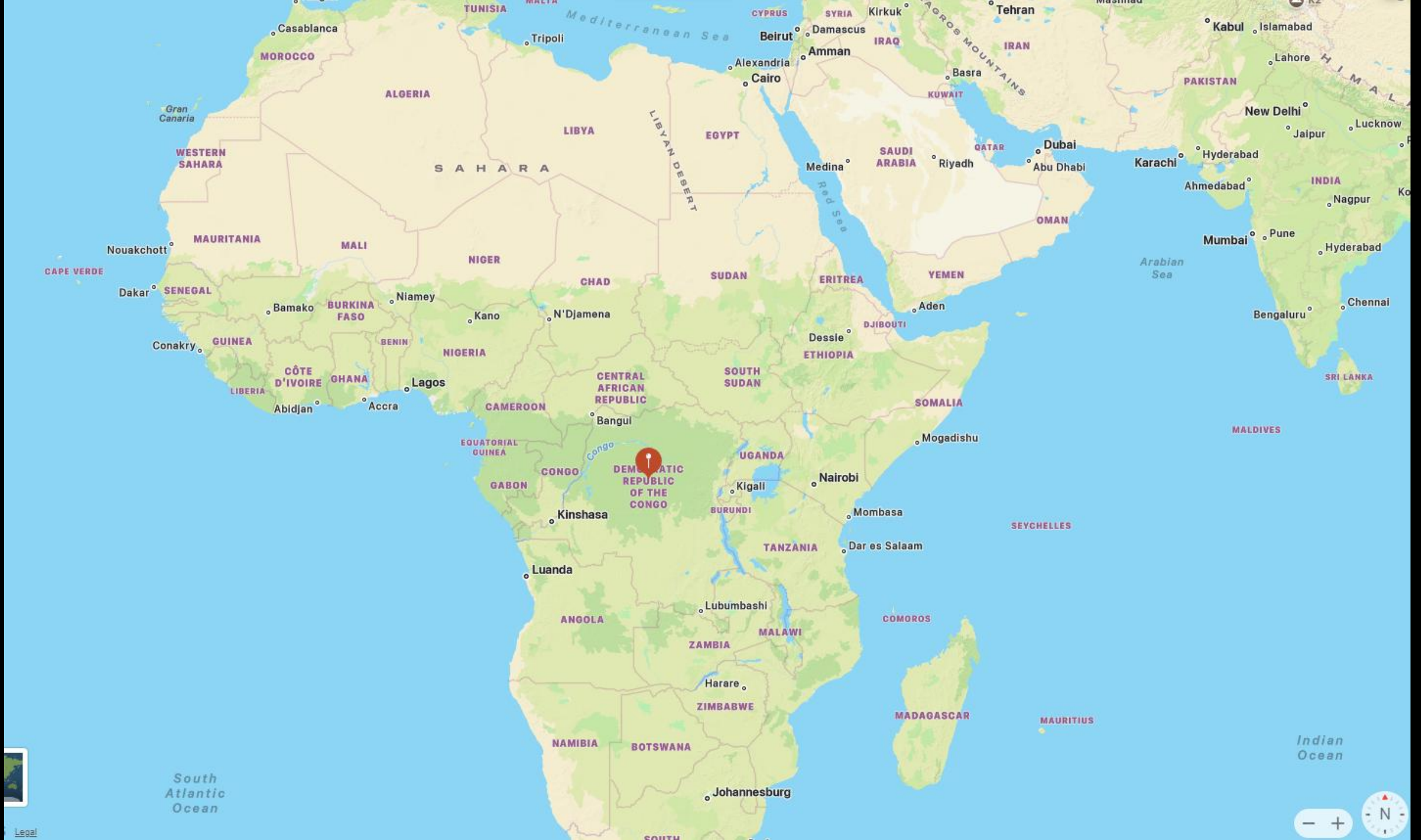
CHRISTIAN
CHURCH

Go ye therefore, and teach all nations,
baptizing them in the name of the Father,
and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:
Teaching them to observe all things
whatsoever I have commanded you: and,
lo, I am with you always, even unto the end
of the world. Amen.

Matthew 28:19-20







NEAR TO THE BROKENHEARTED

Psalm 34:18 -19

The LORD is nigh unto them that are of a broken heart; and saveth such as be of a contrite spirit. Many are the afflictions of the righteous: but the LORD delivereth him out of them all.



1. THE REALITY OF BROKENNESS

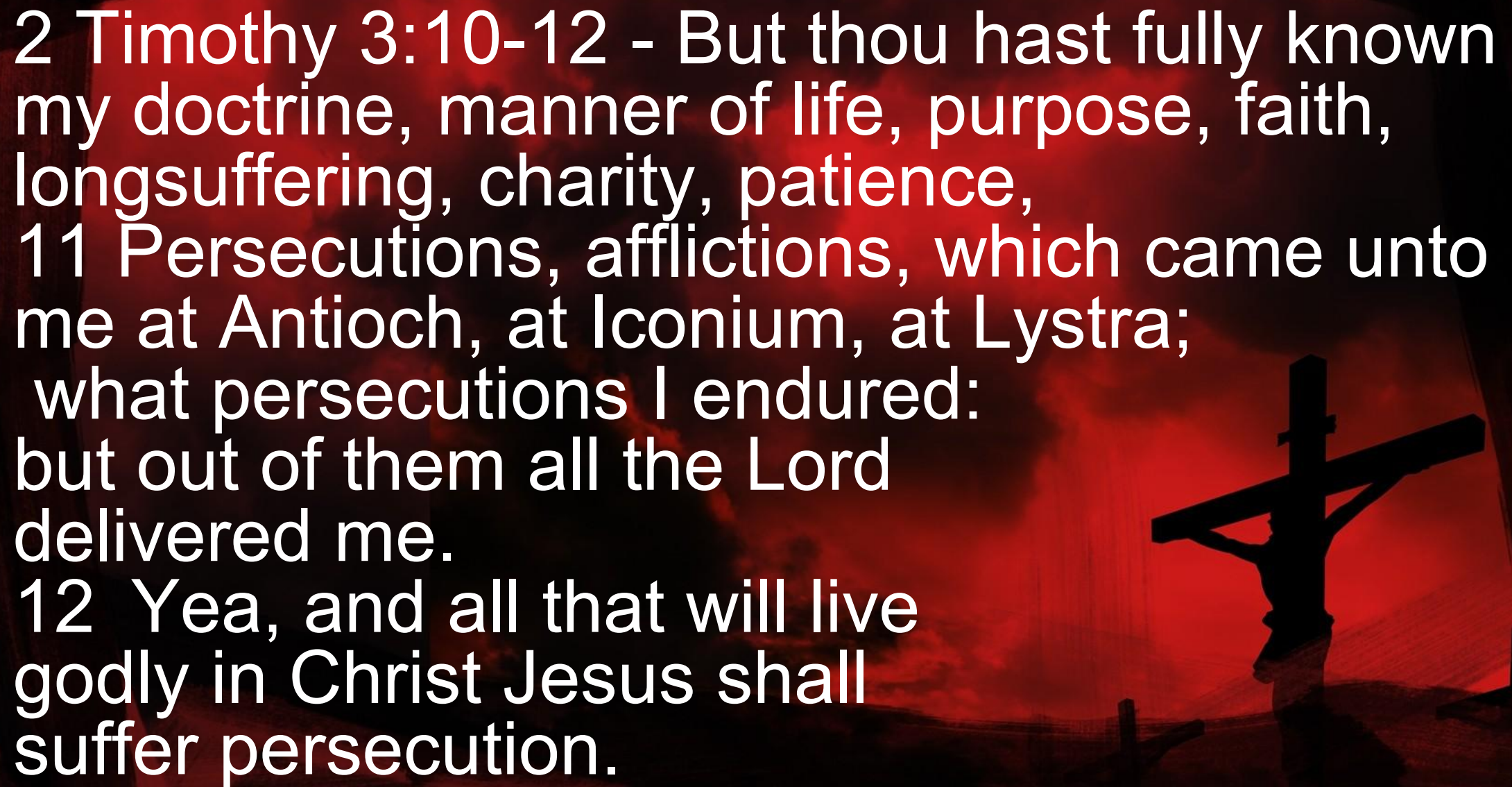
Many are the afflictions of the righteous...

PSALM 34:19A



1. THE REALITY OF BROKENNESS

2 Timothy 3:10-12 - But thou hast fully known my doctrine, manner of life, purpose, faith, longsuffering, charity, patience,
11 Persecutions, afflictions, which came unto me at Antioch, at Iconium, at Lystra; what persecutions I endured: but out of them all the Lord delivered me.
12 Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution.



A. BROKEN HEARTS AND CRUSHED SPIRITS
ARE A REALITY, NOT A RARITY, EVEN FOR
THE RIGHTEOUS.



**TRIUMPHS OF THE FAITHFUL
(HEBREWS 11:33-35)**

Conquered kingdoms

Performed acts of righteousness

Obtained promises

Shut the mouths of lions

Quenched the power of fire

Escaped the edge of the Sword

From weakness were made strong

Became mighty in War

**TRAGEDIES OF THE
FAITHFUL
(HEBREWS 11:35-38)**

Tortured

Endured mocking's & scourging's

Experienced chains and Imprisonments

Stoned and sawn in two

Tempted

Went about in sheepskins

Destitute, afflicted, and ill-treated

Wandered in deserts and mountains &
caves & holes in the ground

B. FOLLOWING CHRIST FAITHFULLY OFTEN
STEERS CHRISTIANS STRAIGHT INTO
DANGER.



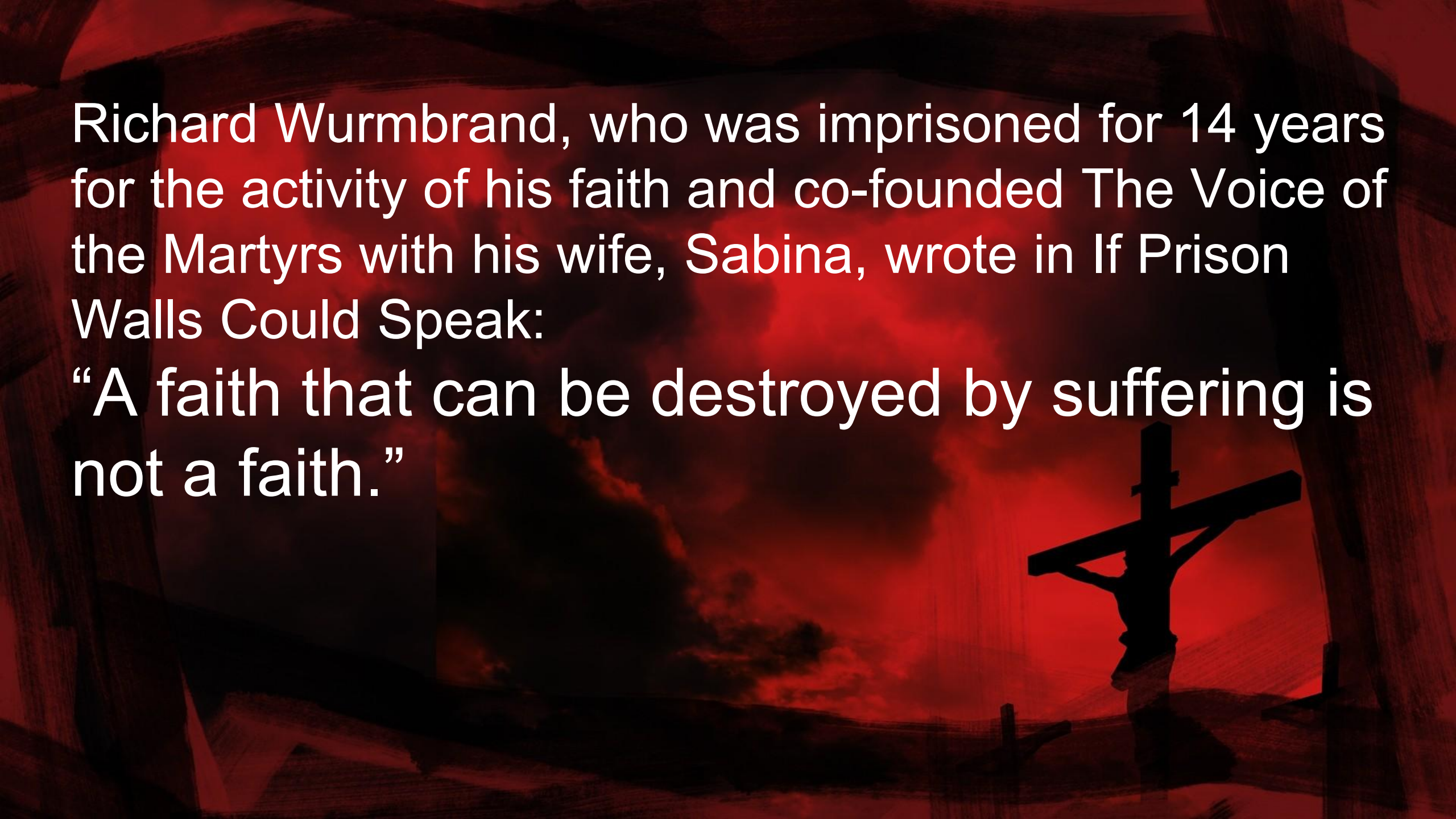
C. WHEN OUR CHRISTIAN BROTHERS AND SISTERS,
LIKE THOSE IN THE DRC, ARE ASSAULTED, ARE
KIDNAPPED, HAVE THEIR HOMES AND CHURCHES
BURNED, AND WITNESS THE KILLINGS OF LOVED
ONES, THEY EXPERIENCE DEEP
EMOTIONAL AND SPIRITUAL PAIN.
THE EFFECTS OF THIS PAIN CAN
LAST A LONG TIME.



APPLICATION: Watching, reading or hearing a story about the pain and suffering our Christian brothers and sisters experience, can be difficult.

1. We may get angry at the persecutors or at God.
2. We may have feelings of indifference because we struggle to identify with the context of a life so different than our own.
3. We may experience unbelief and retreat into a place of denial: "That can't be true."

Each of those responses, however, is unhelpful, unproductive and immature. Biblical disciples must realize that they will experience brokenness and prepare for those seasons through developing an intimate relationship with the Lord.



Richard Wurmbrand, who was imprisoned for 14 years for the activity of his faith and co-founded The Voice of the Martyrs with his wife, Sabina, wrote in If Prison Walls Could Speak:

“A faith that can be destroyed by suffering is not a faith.”

2. THE REACH OF THE LORD IN OUR BROKENNESS

PSALM 34:18 - THE LORD IS NIGH UNTO THEM
THAT ARE OF A BROKEN HEART;
AND SAVETH SUCH AS BE
OF A CONTRITE SPIRIT.



A. THE LORD IS NOT DISTANT, NO MATTER
HOW WE FEEL. HE IS NEAR.



1. OUR PHYSICAL, EMOTIONAL AND
SPIRITUAL BROKENNESS IS NOT
REPULSIVE TO THE LORD.



2. OFTEN, THE LORD'S NEARNESS IS
ACCOMPLISHED THROUGH THE FAITHFUL
CARE AND DEMONSTRABLE LOVE OF
CHRISTIANS SERVING THE
BROKENHEARTED.



B. THE LORD IS PRESENT IN OUR BROKENNESS.

HE IS PRESENT IN

- **Time** – in the moment of our need. He is never late. Even when it doesn't seem so to our human understanding, the Lord is on time.



B. THE LORD IS PRESENT IN OUR BROKENNESS.

HE IS PRESENT IN

- **Tenderness** – with relational nearness as Father and Shepherd. The Lord is not simply aware of our brokenness, as one might be aware of a tragedy by reading a news story but is intimately present as a loving Father for a hurting child.



B. THE LORD IS PRESENT IN OUR BROKENNESS.

HE IS PRESENT IN

- **Territory** – right where we are, in the place of our pain. Our mess, no matter how messy, does not intimidate the Lord. He is willing and able to meet us at the point of our need.



APPLICATION:

When you see others walking through a season of brokenness, what is your immediate thought? Do you think of the following?

- God, help them stand firm in their faith during this difficult season.
- I wonder what is really going on in their life.
- How can I pray for you, stand with you and serve you in this difficult season?



- **"Remember to listen more than to speak."**

N'oubliez pas d'écouter plus que de parler

- **"Remember to let God speak through His word."**

N'oubliez pas de laisser Dieu parler à travers sa parole

- **"Ask, pray, and above all, Be there."**

écoutez, priez et surtout. Soyez là.

3. THE RESCUE FROM BROKENNESS

PSALM 34:18-19

The LORD is nigh unto them that are of a broken (crushed) heart; and saveth such as be of a contrite spirit. Many are the afflictions of the righteous: but the LORD delivereth him out of them all.



WHAT TYPE OF RESCUE DOES THE LORD PROVIDE?

A. One way the Lord may save the brokenhearted and crushed in spirit is by raising us above the reality of our suffering, even if he does not remove the suffering.

- This saving is

- » **Personal:** He lifts you (Isaiah 41:10; 2 Corinthians 4:8–9).

- » **Powerful:** He revives the spirit, even when the physical, emotional and spiritual pain lingers (Psalms 73:26).

WHAT TYPE OF RESCUE DOES THE LORD PROVIDE?

B. When we read the stories of persecuted Christians who gave their own lives, the ultimate price, for the activity of their faith, we know they too were saved and delivered as the Psalmist penned.



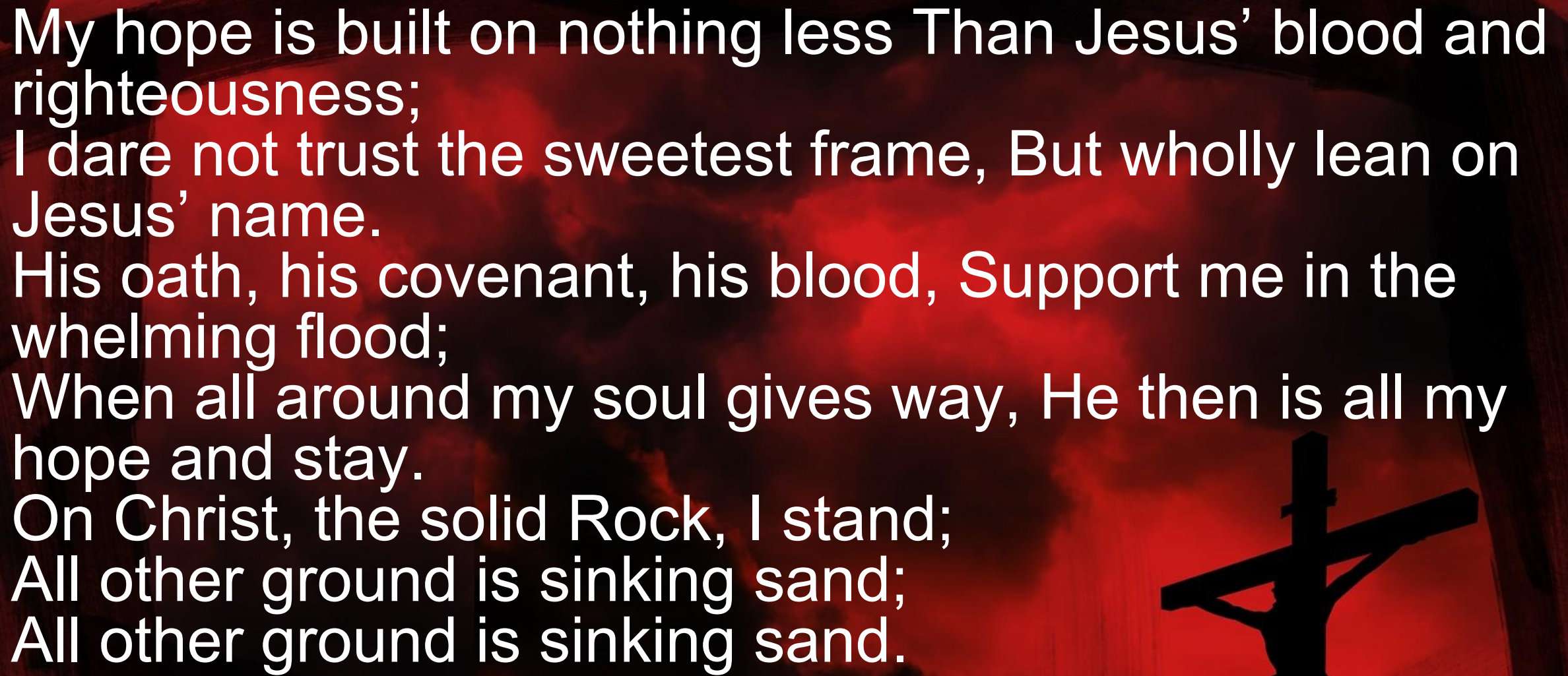
“When God rescues us from trouble, he does not always airlift us out of danger. Since this psalm [Psalm 34] was fulfilled in Christ’s death and resurrection, we conclude that God will allow us to go through hard troubles and even die so that he can save us by raising us to resurrection life. If you want to take refuge in him, you need the faith to believe that God gives life to the dead. If he promises to rescue you, he is able to keep his word and save you even after you die” (Preaching the Word: The Psalms, Rejoice the Lord is King, Vol. 1, James A. Johnston, p. 355).



May God use each of us as ambassadors of His
nearness as we:

- meet those facing brokenness at the point of their need
- listen to them more than we speak
- point them to the healing truth of
God's Word
- intentionally make ourselves
available to them





My hope is built on nothing less Than Jesus' blood and
righteousness;
I dare not trust the sweetest frame, But wholly lean on
Jesus' name.
His oath, his covenant, his blood, Support me in the
whelming flood;
When all around my soul gives way, He then is all my
hope and stay.
On Christ, the solid Rock, I stand;
All other ground is sinking sand;
All other ground is sinking sand.

("My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less"
by Edward Mote, 1834)



PRAY

...for the emotional and spiritual healing of Christians who have experienced violent attacks by Islamists.

Pray that their faith will be strong.

Pray that the attacks will end and that the persecutors will repent and turn to Christ.



PRAY

...for front-line workers
engaged in this vital ministry
of presence.

Pray that God will protect their
hearts and minds so that their
own emotional and spiritual
wellness will remain whole.



PRAY

...that they will trust God for wisdom and discernment as they choose encouraging and healing words.

Pray for God's strength as they sit with those who have been attacked and the ability to be present in each meeting.