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A Conversation in Heaven

I would like you to think about Heaven. Now, picture two Christians chatting together in Heaven. One is from India. His name is Kablo. The other Christian is from America. His name is Eric.

Kablo's testimony

One day, a missionary came to Kablo's house and talked with him a long time. He returned numerous times, explaining to Kablo the Christian faith. Eventually, Kablo embraced Christianity, was baptized, and became a disciple of Christ. He was only nineteen years old.

Kablo faced instant persecution and was kicked out of his house. Nevertheless, he continued to share the Gospel with his family. He became a shining light to the community, and many people were interested in hearing what he had to say. His love was

contagious and his passion was unstoppable. However, the powers of darkness wanted to destroy him.

Then Kablo was captured by a band of angry Hindus. They dragged him into a dark alley and threw him to the ground. They cursed him, spat on him, and kicked him repeatedly. When his tormentors stopped to take a break, Kablo looked up at them, coughed up blood, and whispered weakly, “I love you.” Feeling ashamed—but not knowing what to do—the men ran away.

Hours crawled by as Kablo lay helplessly on the ground. Barely alive, he writhed in pain. One man noticed him, but refused to offer any aid because he knew Kablo was a Christian.

Kablo died in the cold, dark alley that night.

Eric’s testimony

As Kablo shares his story, Eric listens intently, tears in his eyes. At last, he says, “Brother, I was praying for you.”

Hallelujah, what a beautiful scene! Can you just picture it? Eric and Kablo embrace each other as all Heaven rejoices. Suddenly, Jesus walks into the picture. We hear Him say to Eric and Kablo, “Well done, good and faithful servants.”

What did Kablo and Eric have in common?

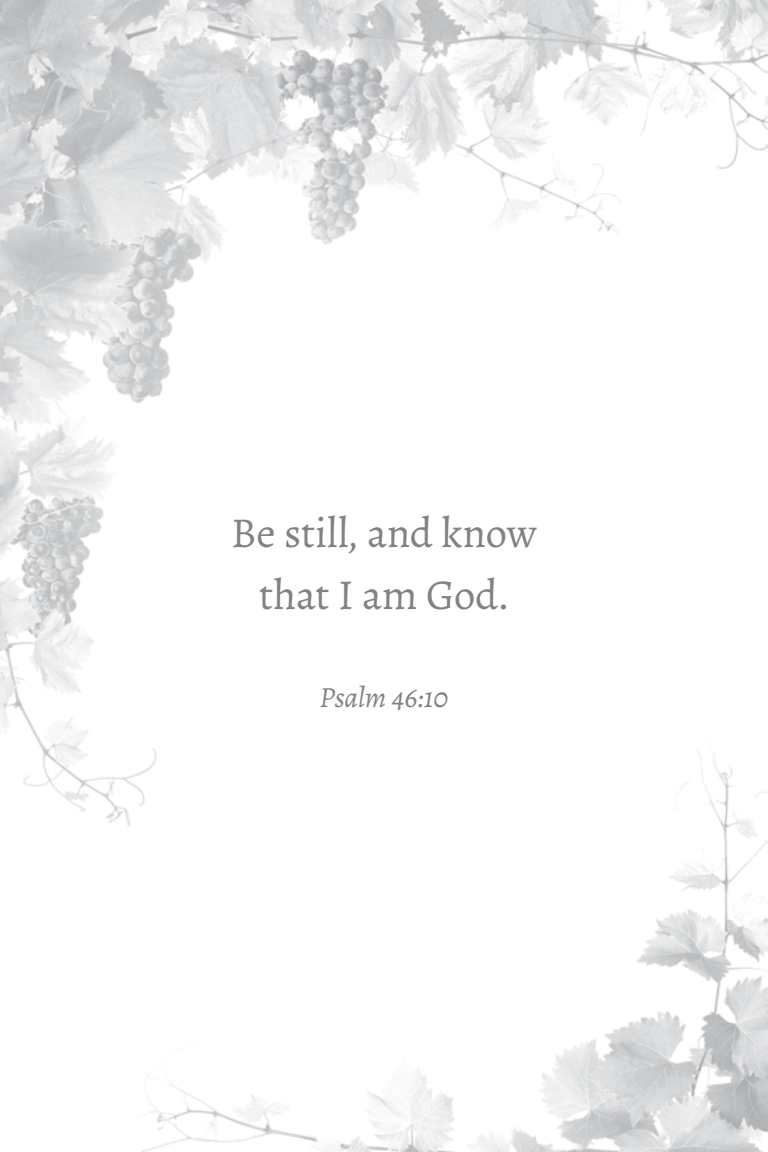
Do you think it is harder to be a Christian in places where Christians face imprisonment, torture, and death? Or do you think it is harder to be a Christian in a land like America where Christians face prosperity, wealth, worldliness, and complacency?

I don't know the answer. But I do know this—Christians should give their all for Christ regardless of where they live. Kablo courageously served Christ in India. He chose to suffer affliction with the people of God, rather than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season. Christ meant more to him than his own life.

Likewise, Eric faithfully served Christ in America. He esteemed the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures of America. He set his affections on things above, not on things on the earth. Though he was not persecuted, he prayed for those who were.

So how did they do it? What made Kablo and Eric so outstanding? Why did they live the way they lived? Why was Christ so real to them?

Kablo and Eric had something in common. They were both abiding in Christ.



Be still, and know
that I am God.

Psalm 46:10

Abiding in Christ

We live in a noisy world. Modern technology has some advantages, but it has created a very loud, fast-paced life. *Ring, zoom, boom, beep, snap, crackle, pop!* Everyone is go-go-go. And Satan loves it. Let me explain why.

If you wanted to kill a branch, how would you do it? Easy—you would separate it from its source. In a short time that branch would shrivel up and die. It wouldn't grow. It wouldn't bear fruit.

Now, if you were Satan, and you wanted to kill a Christian spiritually, what would you do? The same thing. You would separate the Christian from his source.

Jesus, our life

Jesus is our source. We are the branches. If we want to stay alive spiritually, if we want to grow, and if we want to bear fruit, we must stay connected to Him.