

Abandon...

Abandon what? Abandon your faith? Abandon your eternal inheritance?  
Abandon ship?

Abandon your faith?

The trial of your faith may last for a few hours, or for an extended period of time.

The following is one of those trials that God permits Satan to use against us as a strengthening tool, and is, what I call a 'Job job', except it was not so much the counsellors, but the events.

A friend of ours has been having treatment for a health problem. It is a new style treatment with very few recorded side-effects, and/or ultimate results.

She lent her car – a nifty, sporty coupe – to a relative. For reasons not clear at this time, the car left the road and hit a tree. The car was severely damaged, and the driver was hospitalised.

While pain, grief, and trauma are evident in the above, the three, pain, grief, and trauma are always relative to a persons ability to deal with them.

But to follow Job's trial, and become an overcomer, the end result is huge, not only with wealth, but the confirmation that Jesus will be with us until the end.

Abandon your eternal inheritance?

One of the most upsetting burdens that any Spiritual Leader can experience is watching a member's faith just dwindle away.

Members of the Church are torn apart, watching with sorrow and feeling of despair.

The biggest question is, "How long do I search for?" You search until the Spirit says "Stop", or until the member draws a line you cannot cross.

A member of a certain church, who previously had been attending services regularly, stopped going.

After a few weeks, the pastor decided to visit him. It was a chilly evening, and the pastor found sitting before a blazing fire.

The pastor made himself comfortable but said nothing. In the following silence, the pastor watched the flames around the burning logs. After a few minutes, the pastor took the fire tongs, and taking a brightly burning ember, he placed it away from the heart by itself.

The host watched in fascination as the ember's flame lost its brightness, and went out.

Immediately before leaving, the pastor picked up the cold, dead ember and placed it back in the centre of the fire. Immediately it began to glow once more with the light and warmth of the burning coals around it.

As the pastor reached the door to leave, his host said, "Thank you so much for your visit and especially for the fiery sermon. I'll be back in church next Sunday".

Another illustration is found in the Gospels.

Matthew records the following for us, "Then Judas, which had betrayed him, when he saw that he was condemned, repented himself, and brought again the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and elders, Saying, I have sinned in that I have betrayed the innocent blood. And they said, What is that to us? see thou to that.

.And he cast down the pieces of silver in the temple, and departed, and went and hanged himself", Matthew 27:3-5.

When Judas committed suicide, he compounded his problem, he

1. Repented to the priests, not the one he had betrayed,
2. Suicide is self murder, placing you on the wrong side of the veil of death to repent.

Abandon ship?

Jesus, when walking on the water, told Peter to leave the boat and walk to Him. Jesus did not say, "Peter, get out of the boat before it sinks, and drowns the rest".

Peter did get out of the boat. And when did he – Peter – begin to sink? When he looked away from Jesus and saw the waves! A call to the Lord, and Peter was saved. Matthew 14:28-31.

For the Christian to abandon ship means to leave the ark of our salvation.