

²¹ And when eight days had passed, before His circumcision, His name was then called Jesus, the name given by the angel before He was conceived in the womb.

²² And when the days for their purification according to the law of Moses were completed, they brought Him up to Jerusalem to present Him to the Lord ²³ (as it is written in the Law of the Lord, "Every firstborn male that opens the womb shall be called holy to the Lord"), ²⁴ and to offer a sacrifice according to what was said in the Law of the Lord, "A pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons." ...

Luke 2 : 21 - 24, 36 - 38

³⁶ And there was a prophetess, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was advanced in years and had lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, ³⁷ and then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple, serving night and day with fastings and prayers. ³⁸ At that very moment she came up and began giving thanks to God, and continued to speak of Him to all those who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.

Luke 2 : 21 - 24, 36 - 38



...AND HE ANSWERED ME
STORIES OF PRAYER AND THE GOD OF GRACE



MAKE SOME NOISE

BACK TO SCHOOL 2019





...AND HE ANSWERED ME
STORIES OF PRAYER AND THE GOD OF GRACE

“Each new morn
New widows howl
New Orphans cry
New Sorrows strike heav’n upon the face”

Shakespeare
Macbeth



What Anna Knows





What Anna Knows

What Anna Does



What Anna Knows

What Anna Does

What Anna Becomes

What Anna Knows



“She was advanced in years and had lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, and then as a widow to the age of eighty-four.”

Luke 2 : 36 - 37



Four Major Ways Cultures Deal with Suffering

The moralistic view



“Instant Karma’s gonna get you”

John Lennon



The moralistic view

The self-transcendent view



Yoda: "These visions you have ..."

Anakin: "They are of pain, suffering ... death...I won't let my visions come true..."

Yoda: "Rejoice for those around us who transform into the Force. Mourn them, do not. Miss them, do not. **Attachment leads to jealousy.**"

Anakin: "What must I do, Master Yoda?"

Yoda: "Train yourself to **let go of everything you fear to lose.**"

Star Wars: Revenge of the Sith

The moralistic view

The self-transcendent view

The Fatalistic View



CHRIS
HEMSWORTH

TOM
HIDDLESTON

CATE
BLANCHETT

IDRIS
ELBA

JEFF
GOLDBLUM

TESSA
THOMPSON

KARL
URBAN

MARK
RUFFALO

ANTHONY
AND HOPKINS



MARVEL STUDIOS

THOR

RAGNAROK



The moralistic view

The self-transcendent view

The Fatalistic View

The Dualistic View





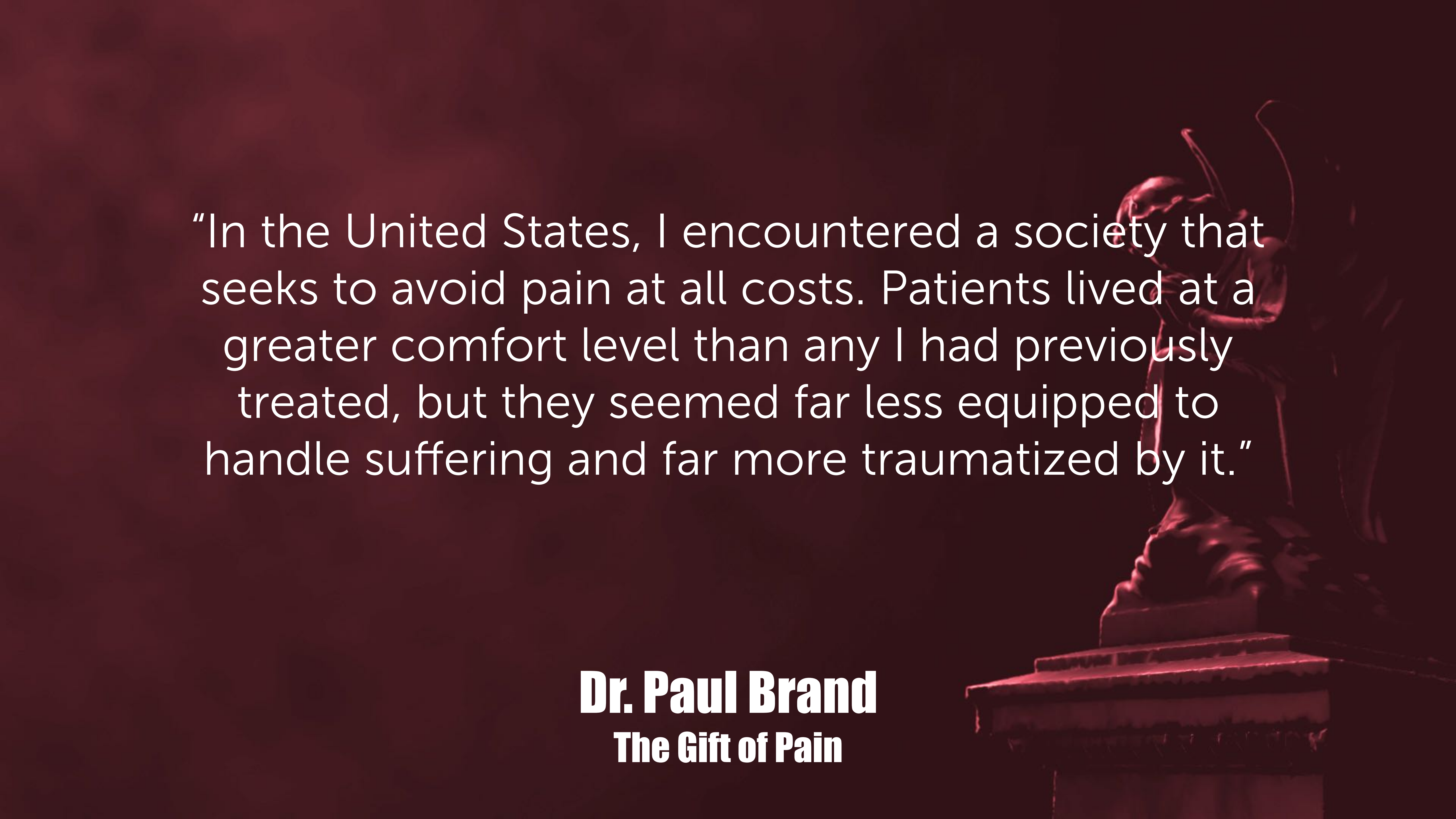
The moralistic view

The self-transcendent view

The Fatalistic View

The Dualistic View

The secular view

A statue of a person, possibly a historical figure, is shown in a dark, dramatic setting. The statue is illuminated with a strong red light, creating a somber and intense atmosphere. The person appears to be in a state of distress or suffering, with their head tilted back and hands near their face. The background is dark, with some faint outlines of architectural elements like columns.

“In the United States, I encountered a society that seeks to avoid pain at all costs. Patients lived at a greater comfort level than any I had previously treated, but they seemed far less equipped to handle suffering and far more traumatized by it.”

Dr. Paul Brand
The Gift of Pain



**Christians believe suffering is
not always your fault**



**Christians believe suffering
is real, not an illusion**



**Christians don't just put
on a happy face**



**Christianity doesn't see suffering as
the way you work off your debts**

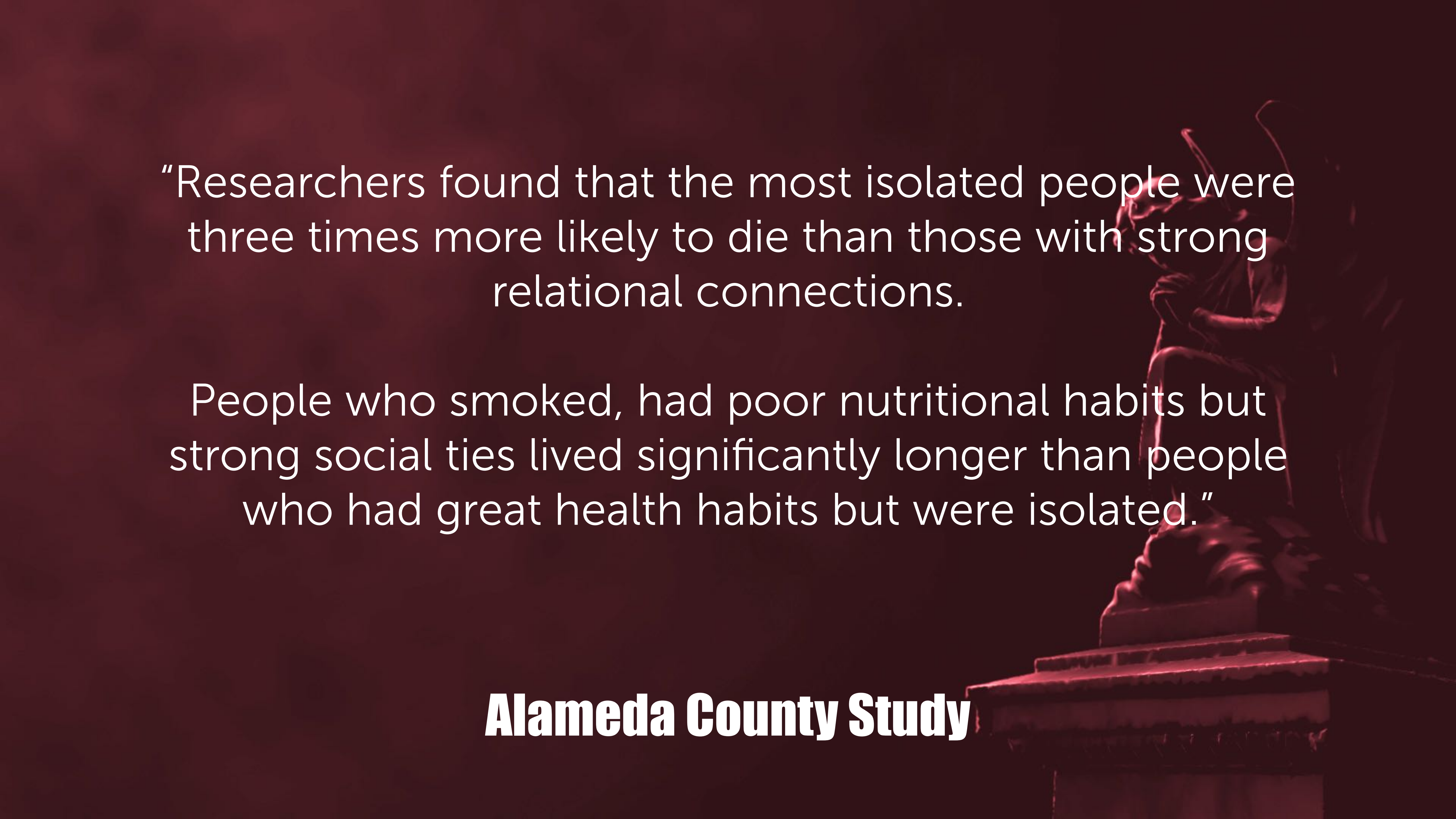


**Christians believe suffering
is meaningful**



What Anna Knows


What Anna Does



“Researchers found that the most isolated people were three times more likely to die than those with strong relational connections.

People who smoked, had poor nutritional habits but strong social ties lived significantly longer than people who had great health habits but were isolated.”

Alameda County Study



“There is no ideal community. Community is made up of people with all their richness, but also with their weakness and poverty, of people who accept and forgive each other. Humility and trust are more at the foundation of community than perfection.”

Jean Vanier
Community and Growth

“A group which possess and implements an irrational commitment to the well-being of its members.”

Urie Bronfenbrenner



“serving night and day *with fastings and prayers*”

Luke 2 : 37

“I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened, so that you will know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, and what is the surpassing greatness of His power toward us who believe.”

Ephesians 1:18 - 19



What Anna Knows

What Anna Does

What Anna Becomes

“At that very moment she came up and ***began*** giving thanks to God, and continued to speak of Him to all those who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.”

Luke 2 : 38

“...the manifold wisdom of God should be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms.”

Ephesians 3 : 10

"I am sure that the angels and demons stood amazed as they watched the uncomplaining patience of your daughter."

Joni Eareckson Tada



"[She] continued to speak of Him *to all those who were looking for the redemption* of Jerusalem."

Luke 2 : 38



...AND HE ANSWERED ME
STORIES OF PRAYER AND THE GOD OF GRACE