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# **Divine Throw Down**



## **Sundar Singh 1889–1929 ?**

**One of the  
most famous  
Indian (Sikh)  
evangelists.**

**One of the  
first to  
recognize that  
the Gospel  
must  
sometimes  
have a  
cultural  
context.**



## Previously, in ACTS 8

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- <sup>39</sup> When they came up out of the water, **the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away;** and the eunuch no longer saw him, **[o]but went on his way rejoicing.** <sup>40</sup> **But Philip [p]found himself at [a]Azotus, and as he passed through he kept preaching the gospel to all the cities until he came to Caesarea.**



# Scene Change: Chapter 9

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- Now [a]Saul, still breathing [b]threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the **high priest**,<sup>2</sup> and asked for **letters from him** to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any belonging to **the Way**, both men and women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem.
- 7:58 Now when they had driven him out of the city, they *began stoning him*; and the witnesses laid aside their robes at the feet of a **young man named Saul**.<sup>59</sup> They went on stoning Stephen as he called on *the Lord* and said, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit!"<sup>60</sup> Then falling on his knees, he cried out with a loud voice, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them!" Having said this, he fell asleep.



# Divine Throwdown

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- <sup>3</sup> As he was traveling, it happened that he was approaching Damascus, and suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him; <sup>4</sup> and he fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, “Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?” <sup>5</sup> And he said, “Who are You, Lord?” And He *said*, “I am Jesus whom you are persecuting, <sup>6</sup> but get up and enter the city, and it will be told you what you must do.”



# Divine Darkness

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- The men who traveled with him stood speechless, hearing the [c]voice but seeing no one. <sup>8</sup> Saul got up from the ground, **and though his eyes were open, he [d]could see nothing;** and **leading him by the hand,** they brought him into Damascus. <sup>9</sup> **And he was three days without sight,** and neither ate nor drank.



# Doubling Down?

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- Have you ever been absolutely convinced that you were absolutely right?
- Only to discover, often in a dramatically embarrassing fashion, that you were absolutely wrong?
- And even after it was obvious to everyone, even you, that you were wrong, you doubled down on your wrongness, to avoid having to surrender to the truth?
- You don't have to wait to be knocked from your horse and led around by the hand ....

# Sundar's Divine Throw Down



Then as I prayed, and looked into the light, I saw the form of the Lord Jesus Christ. It had such an appearance of glory and love.

The thought then came to me, Jesus Christ is not dead, but living, and it must be He Himself!' So I fell at His feet, and got this wonderful Peace which I could not get anywhere else





# In Paul's Own Words - 1: Cor 15

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<sup>3</sup> For I delivered to you [b]as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, <sup>4</sup> and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, <sup>5</sup> and that He appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. <sup>6</sup> After that He appeared to more than five hundred brethren at one time, most of whom remain until now, but some have fallen asleep; <sup>7</sup> then He appeared to [c]James, then to all the apostles; <sup>8</sup> and last of all, as [d]to one untimely born, He appeared to me also. <sup>9</sup> For I am the least of the apostles, [e]and not fit to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. <sup>10</sup> **But by the grace of God I am what I am, and His grace toward me did not prove vain**



# CS Lewis on His Divine Throw Down

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“You must picture me alone in that room, night after night, feeling, whenever my mind lifted even for a second from my work, the steady, unrelenting approach of Him whom I so earnestly desired **not** to meet. That which I greatly feared had at last come upon me. In the Trinity Term of 1929 I gave in, and admitted that God was God, and knelt and prayed: perhaps, that night, the most dejected and reluctant convert in all England. I did not then see what is now the most shining and obvious thing; the Divine humility which will accept a convert even on such terms. **The Prodigal Son at least walked home on his own feet.** But who can duly adore that Love which will open the high gates to a prodigal who is brought in kicking, struggling, resentful, and darting his eyes in every direction for a chance of escape? ... **The hardness of God is kinder than the softness of men, and His compulsion is our liberation.**”

— [C.S. Lewis, Surprised by Joy: The Shape of My Early Life](#)



# Where are you struggling right now?

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- deeply loved by God,
- fully accepted by God,
- completely and permanently forgiven by God,
- lavishly blessed by God,
- and eternally, perfectly embraced by God as his child; a child who brings Him unspeakable JOY