

A Surrendered Life

Experiments with uranium were part of Louis Slotin's job as a research scientist in 1946 at the Omega Site Laboratory in Los Alamos, New Mexico. In one of his experiments, Slotin conducted a test in which he would bring two pieces of uranium close together. Just as an atomic reaction would begin, he would separate the two segments with a screwdriver and stop it.

One day, while performing the experiment, the screwdrivers slipped and the pieces of uranium got too close together. The reaction instantly filled the room with a dazzling bluish light.

Slotin did not run to protect himself from the dangerous radiation, although he fully knew what it could do. To the contrary, he tore the pieces of uranium apart with his hands, stopping the chain reaction. His quick action saved the lives of the other scientists in the room, but nine days later, Slotin died in agony.

He heroically and voluntarily surrendered his own life to save others. What this unselfish scientist did is a picture of what Jesus Christ chose to do for us nearly 2,000 years ago. He took to Himself sin's most deadly radiation and impact. He willingly accepted its curse on our behalf. He allowed it to bring Him to a horrible death.

But in so doing, Jesus broke the chain reaction of sin and punishment that entrapped us. We owe Him our gratitude, and our praise. Most of all, however, He is due our lives surrendered in obedience to Him.

--Beecher Hunter