

Chapter 6- Let's Fly: Being Restored To Your Creator

We can only imagine what it will be like to live in a perfect environment, because we live in such a painful world. This desire for something more than what we experience now is a God-given desire that is in every human being. But what do we do with that desire? And how are we restored?

Remember when I stopped at the airport and asked questions about flying? The instructor asked me, "Do you want to fly?" I said, "Yes! When can I start?" He replied by saying, "We can go out to the plane right now!" We did, and I flew for the first time. I was curious about what was required. I learned the rough idea of what was needed for me to fly. I decided to fly, and I flew.

There is something so freeing and exciting about deciding to fly with Jesus, our Creator. He is like the flight instructor. He sits right next to me. As His follower, I learn that I just need to believe Him and trust Him.

Sometimes we have the view of Creator God as a ruler. This ruler has a checklist of things that we must do or not do, and if we don't fall in line, He is very unhappy with us. Many believe that if we break too many of those rules on the checklist that we will not go to heaven at the end of this life. So often, these ideas are perpetuated by an enemy who feeds these things to our mind. These ideas or so-called "truths" are not what God has told us.

In your life, how do you feel in any of these situations: painting a beautiful picture, planting a garden, running a race, building a new computer, laying a brick wall, harvesting a field, training a horse, developing wonderful relationships, or flying a plane? Think about the things that make you feel creative, fulfilled, rewarded, happy, appreciated, or loved. God's heart for us is that the things that He created for us to do and experience are meant to be fulfilling and lifegiving.

If we were robots, we certainly would do all we were programmed to do exactly to perfection, but we would not have a satisfying experience in any way. God's plan is to teach us and then let us learn to fly.

Being you have read this far I believe you are more than likely searching for these answers as I was. I decided to pull into the airport. I was curious. You decided to

read further. You were curious. I listened to the instructor about flying requirements, its benefits, rewards, and satisfactions. You have listened to the promise of peace, joy, restoration with our Creator and its rewards. He said, "Get in the plane, and I will show you."

Here is God's plan. He said all things that are not perfect must be destroyed, or they will just continue to pollute while the pain remains. God clearly said that He had a plan for restoration for humanity. He sent His Son, Jesus, to earth, that He might pay the price for all who would accept His gift of forgiveness. When Jesus was here, He showed them the way and asked them to follow Him. It was and still is each person's choice.

Forgiveness is a gift, which means we do not work for it. We accept it. Jesus calls us to accept His gift that He might enter our soul with His Spirit and restore us to the relationship we were created for. All of this is possible because our sins were put on Jesus to be the sacrifice for us.

During my initial flight, the instructor offered to get in the plane with me and teach me. Jesus Himself restores us. He does not force us into this. We decide to get in the plane and listen to His teaching. Can you imagine if I tried to fly with no instructor? It would be disastrous. I would die trying and could kill others as well. It is not possible to know enough to do it on my own.

Ephesians 2:8 says, "By grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not of your own doing, it is a gift of God." Another verse (1 John 5:13) says, "I am writing this to you so that you may know that you have eternal life, you that believe in the son of God." God said that he would create a new perfect, heaven and earth for all who believed Him and wanted to follow Him. It will be perfect again. We can never be perfect enough to go there on our own. We cannot know and observe all the absolutes enough to go to such a perfect place. There has to be something that happens in us in order for us to go there.

THE DECISION

At this point in this journey, the offer is on the table. You have the choice to say, "Yes" or "Not yet." Some of you may feel like you have made this decision before but aren't quite sure. Jesus has met you where you are at and is waiting for you to jump in the plane. I could have listened to all the instructor said, but if I did not

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actually say, "Ok! Let's do it," I would not have ever flown. I would have missed out on so much. God is waiting for us to say yes to fly with Him.

And how do we do that? In the Bible, Romans 10:9+10 says, "If you declare with your mouth that Jesus is Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. It is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved." It's that simple. You decide if you want to believe Him, accept his forgiveness, and trust that Jesus paid your price. You can communicate those things to Him right now!

(If you are struggling with what to say, here is something that might fit.)

"Jesus, I want to follow you. I believe what you have said and that your restoration is a gift for me. Thank you for forgiving me."

If you shared those words with Jesus, there is a party going on in heaven right now! Luke 15:10 says, "In the same way, I tell you, there is rejoicing in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents." This is an amazing day, and the journey has just begun!

Head over now to Series 2- it will help you learn how to fly in this relationship with Jesus!

Is there an action step needed for you today?