

Crossing The Line

With the business trip over all that remained was the return flight home, to be with my family. The sixteen passenger aircraft was full to capacity. The weather at takeoff was light rain and clouds. This would soon deteriorate to one of the most violent storms ever forecasted. From my seat in the aircraft I could see inside the cockpit, as the pilots choose to leave the curtain open.

Being familiar with aviation instrumentation the weather radar screen would be my focus for the next hour of flight. As the flight progressed in the darkness of night the radar screen looked mostly green, indicating light to moderate rain. Then the color red started to appear on the screen, which indicates, severe rain and turbulence. At first the aircraft was able to maneuver around the storms. You could see the storms slip off the radarscope as the aircraft diverted from them.

The rain began to intensify to the point you almost had to yell to your neighbor in order to talk to them. Looking back at the radar screen, it had suddenly turned completely red. There was no way around this storm except right through the middle. Looking out the window you could see lightning and the reflection of storm clouds against a darkened sky. The aircraft was tossed about. Up and down and sideways, it was the worst storm I had ever been in. Thank God for the autopilot helping control the plane, as it made the pilots job somewhat easier.

I begin to wonder if we were really going to make it or not. I thought if this is the end I want everything to be right with the Lord. So I prayed and a since of real peace came over me. I looked around and observed other people praying and many with a look of despair on their face. I wondered if we didn't make it, who would go to Heaven and who would go to Hell.

As the aircraft broke through the clouds at our final destination, the storm had begun to subside. Everyone was breathing a sigh of relief as the plane landed safely.

I thought about the radar screen and the plane maneuvering away from the storms, it's clear that the storms are like sin and the plane was trying to avoid it. Our Christian walk is like that, as you see the temptation of sin and you try to avoid it.

Then there are times that we are over taken in sin by our very nature, just as the aircraft was overtaken in the storm. The Bible says in **1 Peter 5:8**, "Be sober, be vigilant, because your adversary, the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour."

Just as the autopilot helped the pilots with control of the plane during the storm, Christ can deliver us. The Bible says in, **2nd Peter 2:9**, "The Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly out of temptations, and to reserve the unjust unto the Day of Judgment to be punished."

When we are crossing the line of sin and rebellion from God and what we know is true, we should recognize that it is those storms that God is seeking a closer walk with him. But we need not despair because the Bible says in **1st John 1:9**, "if we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." In other words you can't put your sins behind you until you face them, because confession is the key that will open the door to forgiveness.

We should not let sin rule over our lives. In **Romans 6:14**, "For sin shall not have dominion over you: for you are not under the law, but under grace." This does not give us the right to sin, but to let us know that what Gods word says is true in **1st John 4:4**, "You are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world." The Lord may calm the storms that surround you, but more important he will calm the storm within you.

When Satan attacks, and he will attack. That should be a time of prayer for us. To do what the Bible tell us in **Ephesians 6:10-11**, "Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. Put on the whole Armour of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil."

You cannot expect to be an effective soldier for Christ without a daily surrender to him. Only Christ through the Holy Spirit can direct our daily lives. Jesus said in **John 10:10**, "The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly." In other words Satan wants to destroy, but Jesus is your only hope in life and in death.

For those who do not know the Lord Jesus Christ as your Savior you can make that decision today, ask him into your life and ask him to forgive you of your sins. The Bible says in **Romans 3:10**, "For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God." And in **1st John 1:10**, "If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us." Do not delay accept him today! Jesus said in **John 14:6**, "Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me." There simply is no other way but to trust in Jesus.

You must believe what the Bible says in **John 3:16-18**, "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved. He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God."

I pray that you will believe these scriptures and even make them your prayer. **Romans 10:9-11&13**, "That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. For the scripture saith, whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed. For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved."

It is my prayer that God has touched your heart in some way and if you are not a Christian, I pray you will become a child of the King before it is everlasting too late. And for the Christian, if God has touched your life and you see the need to restore your relationship to him, I pray you will do that today. God has a wonderful plan for life. May God bless and keep you.

Inspired by: My Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, to him I give all the Praise, Honor, and Glory.
By: G.L.F.
Ephesians 2:8-9