

Monday October 23<sup>rd</sup>,

James 1:17- “Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from the father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change.”

The third necessary thing for taking flight is lift. I have always been confused by the power of lift, air rushing over and under a wing at the right speed somehow propels that thing up off the ground, defeating the forces of gravity, at least for a time. How an airplane that weighs thousands of pounds can be lifted off the ground by air rushing over and under a wing at the right speed just baffles me. Maybe that explains why I am writing devotionals instead of working as an aeronautical engineer. I digress. When I think about the force of lift in regards to our analogy of how we live faithfully with our money and possessions, lift stands for the work of God in our lives. Last week, we talked about gaining speed through sacrificial generosity, and how that was our responsibility. Lift, is the work of God, and we need to open ourselves to God’s power to provide the lift we need as we gain speed in a Godly direction.

In our text for today, we see James stating that God is the giver of all good things, including what we need to live our very best lives of faith. The forces of evil like to distract us with all the things of this world, and tell us that the only way that we can live happy and fulfilled lives is if we have a nicer car, a larger house, a place to getaway at the lake, or larger retirement funds. Evil tells us that the only way to feel better at the end of a long day is to indulge in retail therapy, overconsumption, or mindless entertainment. Friends let me be clear,

there is nothing wrong with finding joy in the wonderful things that we have, or having nice things. The problem arises when we find joy in the creation and not the creator. We must give thanks to God for the gift of reliable transportation, glorious sunrises, and delicious food. It is misplaced appreciation, either to ourselves for “earning” what we have, or to the thing we have itself that leads us into a place of trouble.

To experience the lift God provides, we must first seek to see how everything we enjoy is truly a gift from God, and that God is continuously pouring out these things from His endless generosity. God is always working in our lives to make sure that we have what we need, and there is always enough. I may not be able to explain it, or understand it, just like the concept of lift. But, just like lift, I have seen it enough times to believe it, and I think that is good enough for us.

1. How do you feel God lifting your spirit today?
2. How can you find joy in the Creator instead of the creation?