

I've always loved aircraft and boats. One of the most iconic airplanes ever produced is the Supermarine Spitfire. All who ever flew it remarked that it was a "Magic Carpet Ride." Everything about the Spitfire just seemed to work. It seemed to become an extension of the pilot rather than just some machine that needed constant monitoring and correction to keep going. As the pilot willed so the Spitfire responded. Most "Test Aircraft" bring about a long list of corrections and problems that need to be addressed. But the Test Pilot, Capt. Joseph "Mutt" Summers, for the first prototype Spitfire famously remarked and noted upon the first flight, "Don't touch anything!" It was perfect as is. It was "Magic!"

An American, John Gillespie Magee, went to Canada and joined the Royal Canadian Air Force (RCAF) at the start of hostilities in Europe in the late 1930's. After training and getting his wings he found himself in England assigned to a Spitfire. After one of his training missions he wrote home and included a poem he had composed. He wrote that as he reached 33,000 feet the poem came to mind and upon landing it was finished. He hurriedly wrote it down and included it in his letter home. It was sent to a newspaper which published it.

High Flight
John G Magee

Oh! I have slipped the surely bonds of Earth
And danced the skies on laughter-Silvered wings;
Sunward I've climbed, and joined the tumbling mirth
Of sun-split clouds, - and done a hundred things
You have not dreamed of - wheeled and soared and swung
High in the sunlit silence. Hov'ring there,
I've chased the shouting wind along, and flung
My eager craft through footless halls of air...

Up, up the long, delirious burning blue
I've topped the wind-swept heights with easy grace
Where never lark nor ever eagle flew -
And while with silent lifting mind I've trod
The high untrespassed sanctity of space
Put out my hand, and touched the face of God.

For most of us such lofty experiences and inspirations are very few and long, long between. We long for a "Magic Carpet Ride" where we go where we want and have effortless ability to get there. We all are quite literally tied to the Earth by the gravity of living and with a host of major things giving gravity to our lives figuratively. Rather than tears of joy and inspiration we often find ourselves with tears of frustration and

humiliation on the constant bombardment of things that demand attention that we don't have. "Why is this heap of a life that I have so hard?" we ask. "Now why is THAT an issue? Now what!? What? Not again!" seems to be our constant lot.

Long before John Magee and his Spitfire, the Apostle John wrote The Revelation telling us what God told and showed him. I find great inspiration in one of my favorite verses, Rev. 7: 13 - 17.

13) Then one of the elders answered, saying to me, "These who are clothed in the white robes, who are they, and where have they come from?"

14) I said to him, "My lord, you know." And he said to me, "These are the ones who come out of the great tribulation, and they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

15) "For this reason, they are before the throne of God; and they serve Him day and night in His temple; and He who sits on the throne will spread His tabernacle over them.

16) "They will hunger no longer, nor thirst anymore; nor will the sun beat down on them, nor any heat;

17) for the Lamb in the center of the throne will be their shepherd, and will guide them to springs of the water of life; and God will wipe every tear from their eyes."

Did you catch that!?? GOD will reach out and touch our faces! WE are an object of God's delight. It is His purpose to be in contact with us. All the tears we have in living out of His direct presence will be remedied forever and our needs attended to. God will touch each of our faces and "wipe every tear from (our) eyes." Rather than we pursuing God to get a feeling of closeness, God will take us and keep us close to himself. Who needs a Spitfire?

But we do need to have "washed (our) robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb." This requires faith in Him and His call into His Kingdom. As Hebrews 11:6 says,

"And without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is and that He is a rewarder of those who seek Him."

The path to God has been laid open and bare to us in the sacrifice of God's Son on a cross for our sins and it is that blood that makes our robes white in the presence of God. The sacrificed Lamb is the one that sees to our needs. Here and now He has prepared a table for us where we can be in communion with Him, God and all the rest of the saints forever. This is our chance on a weekly basis to touch the loaf, the body broken for us, and the cup, the blood spilled to make us clean. Jesus said, "Do this in remembrance of Me." This is our reaching out to touch the face of God.