



When You Lose Your Orientation

April 2012

Do you ever feel that with all of life's pressures and troubles you have lost your orientation and are no longer sure where you are going in life? When pilots find themselves in weather conditions in which they cannot see what is ahead of them, the only way they can continue to fly the airplane is by looking at their instruments. Flying into poor weather conditions with low or no visibility results in being deprived of your visual, and then you lose a proper sense of direction. In such conditions it may seem that you are flying straight, but actually you are in a turn heading down without realizing it. This condition is called "spatial disorientation," and it is when a pilot's perception of direction does not agree with reality.



In a spiritual sense there are a lot of weather conditions these days in the airline industry causing people to lose their sense of direction in life. Airline mergers, financial cutback, layoffs and bankruptcy, put our lives in a fog and lessen our visibility to see what is ahead. We can become insecure and feel lost in our facing the future. In these conditions we can make choices to "fly" by our own senses, based on our own observations and projections. We may think we are flying straight on course, yet life continues to spiral downward.

So what can keep us on course...what is needed to prevent us from losing our orientation when life gets tough? Like the aviator, the first thing we must do is to recognize the failings of a self-guided life, and then humbly submit to God as our life's navigational source. He told us that He would lead us even through the valley of the shadows of death (Psalm 23). He did not promise to

remove life's difficulties, but instead He would use them to lead us in His path. Secondly, we should engage in prayer. Prayer puts us in the proper disposition before God. Going to God in prayer declares our helpless state

and declares our dependence on His great abilities. Thirdly, we must know the difference between our instinct and God's wisdom that comes from above (James 3:13-18). The Bible is the only book God ever wrote, and one of the many things it contains is practical wisdom that guides us, and especially through the storms of life. "*Your (God's) word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path*" (Psalm 119:105). Fourthly,

God also uses wise people who know Him and His word to help us. We should be willing to listen to them. And lastly we must be willing to take steps of faith in light of God's wisdom. This is not a leap in the dark, but a step in the light. God's word is light, and though things seem dark and dim, taking steps of faith in the light of God's word keeps us from becoming paralyzed and overcome by the darkness. Sometimes just simple steps, that engage you in prayer, or move you to show kindness, or to consider other's interest as well as your own, keep us from losing our orientation.

Often our greatest obstacle in trusting God's guidance and instructions is the temptation to fly through our hardships with our self made navigation. So, what are you trusting to guide you through the stormy weather conditions of life? (PMC)

Looking Unto Him,
The FCAP Staff

Fellowship of Christian Airline Personnel

www.fcap.org

THE FELLOWSHIP OF CHRISTIAN AIRLINE PERSONNEL

History:

The ministry of FCAP began in 1971 and was incorporated in 1973 when 50 people from eight different airlines in the United States and Canada met to consider how God wanted them to serve Christ in and through the airline industry. Since that time, the ministry of FCAP has spread in over 90 areas of the world. We do not have a membership or dues; rather we are a fellowship among Christians in the airline industry worldwide that share a common commitment and focus.



Perspective & Focus:

Most people look at work primarily as a source of income. Some even view it as a curse imposed on them as punishment from God. *The Fellowship of Christian Airline Personnel* believes that God places a high value on work and is deeply interested in our work, our performance on the job and our relationships with our co-workers. We recognize that both our work and the way we relate to people in the workplace are of great importance to God. So it is our mission: *“To represent Christ in the airlines through meaningful relationships and quality work.”*

FCAP’s two-fold purpose encourages people *to know and experience God’s presence with them at work* and *to trust Him for the enabling strength in the responsibilities and challenges of work*. We see authentic ministry in the workplace as a result of our displaying this relationship to our Lord within the sphere of our influence at work, without being coercive or self-serving.

Values:

- We value doing our work wholeheartedly as unto the Lord, knowing we represent Christ by the quality of our performance while on the job (Ephesians 6:6).
- We value intentionally engaging our faith in the workplace by expressing it in both deeds and words (1 Timothy 6:17-19).
- We value influencing the people around us by creatively building relationship with them and looking out for their interest just as we do our own.
- We value connecting the church in the workplace by seeking out other Christians, to mutually show our love for one another and our care for the people God has placed around us (John 13:35).

Making Your Connection:

Like the airline industry is all about making connections, so FCAP is all about Christians making their connection in the workplace in three basic ways:

- Connecting God’s purposes in the details of your work.
- Connecting ministry to God working through you to influence the people and circumstances of work.
- Connecting the church in the workplace in unique and creative ways, in order to extend and strengthen its influence.

WE OFFER: - Training that helps Christians integrate the Christian faith into the everyday details of our work and its challenges.
- Free publications that offer encouragement, gives focus, and provides information.
- Support and fellowship through local groups, prayer network, training sessions, special events and conferences.



The Fellowship of Christian Airline Personnel

The ministry of FCAP is carried on by everyday ordinary people throughout the airline workplaces of the world who go to work with an extraordinary calling. The FCAP ministry does not focus on specialized people, nor are we a special interest group focusing on certain issues. We do not have a membership nor are we a club with dues. Rather, FCAP is a fellowship of Christians who identify with one another through a common focus and purpose. And we desire to demonstrate how our faith in Jesus Christ can influence the people and circumstances of our workplace. We are blessed to have both airline and non-airline people who encourage and support this ministry.

OVER TWO MILLION AIRLINE EMPLOYEES IN THE WORLD

Your Next Step:

Check on the FCAP website to see if there is a group in your area, or seek out and connect with other Christians at your workplace. Contact us at the international office for further assistance or click on “Your Next Step” on the website.



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