

Spiritual Vertigo

By Joe Slater

I would never make it as a pilot. What if I had to fly at night in fog or a strong wind?

Pilots must trust their instruments in such conditions –easier said than done!

Pilots are not immune from vertigo, the loss of their sense of direction, balance, and equilibrium. That's when trusting instruments is especially important! Fifteen percent

of airplane accidents are due to vertigo; most of them are fatal. It's far worse for pilots who are not instrument rated.

Christians must trust God and His word just like an airplane pilot must trust the instruments. It's far too easy to become disoriented and rely on our feelings, sincerely believing that we're headed in the right direction. Jeremiah correctly wrote, "Oh Lord, I know that the way of man is not in himself; it is not in man who walks to direct

his own steps"(10:23). Two passages in Judges state: "In those days there was no king in Israel; everyone did what was right in his own eyes"(9:6 & 21:25). It was one of the lowest points in Israel's history.

How can I be saved? What does God accept as worship? How should I behave each day? What about my relationships with other people? The Bible answers all of these questions and more. However, some presume that their feelings are promptings by the Holy Spirit that somehow out-rank what the Scriptures say. Others think, "God wants me to be happy, and here's what makes me happy, so it must be ok regardless of what the Bible says."

"We must deal with spiritual vertigo by trusting God and His word as we fly toward heaven. God and His word are more reliable than the best human instruments, and certainly more trustworthy than our feelings!