

Engine Failure!



Many people say they hate to fly! Most of us would agree, however, that when we board an airliner, we expect to arrive at our destination without any problems. The statistics say flying is even safer than driving a car. Airline travel today has become extremely safe and reliable, and this is no "accident."

If people were aware of the preparation which takes place before a flight, it would alleviate many of the fears they have about flying. Airline pilots don't just "kick the tires and light the fire." A team of people have checked the weather along the route, the weight and distribution of the load, takeoff and landing distances, and much more. In short, they have carefully planned the flight and are prepared for most any situation which could arise.

Takeoff, as you might guess, is a very critical phase of a flight. Have you ever wondered what would happen if an engine failed during the takeoff roll? **"I don't like to think about it!"** many people would say. Well, believe it or not, the pilots have given it a lot of thought. Before each takeoff, the pilots review the speeds and procedures they will follow in the unlikely event an engine should fail. They've practiced these situations on flight simulators so many times, it's become routine for them.

One critical speed pilots determine from charts before each flight is called V_1 or **"Takeoff Decision Speed."** This is the maximum speed at which a takeoff can be aborted, considering the weight of the aircraft, elevation, temperature, runway length, etc. If an engine should fail below this speed, the pilot should abort the takeoff and stop on the remaining runway. If an engine fails above this speed, the pilot should continue the takeoff to a safe altitude. In either case, the Captain must make a very important decision.

Imagine pilots who didn't prepare for these situations! What if they just hoped the engines would always perform right and tried not to think about any failures! What if the Captain had no plan to follow? I wouldn't want to get on that airplane!

Yet, many people don't realize that each one of us has a very important decision to make about our future. A decision about our Spiritual future. Do you know where you will spend eternity? Are you prepared?

The Bible promises there is a judgement day coming. Yet God has provided a plan for us to follow. God has prepared a way of safe escape through his only Son. Jesus took the penalty for our sins upon himself and died on the cross as our substitute. We can find forgiveness and eternal life only through faith in Him.

"For God so loved the world (you) that He gave his only begotten Son (Jesus Christ) that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish but have everlasting life."

John 3:16

"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."

John 3:18

"For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God: not of works, lest any man should boast."

Ephesians 2:8-9

Pilots never know when an emergency may occur. They must be prepared **before** each flight. Likewise, each one of us will face eternity some day, ready or not! Don't be caught by surprise; plan ahead for your future. You can learn more about this important decision from God's Word, the Bible. The Gospel of John is a good place to start. Read it for yourself today!

And the next time you get on an airliner, **RELAX....** The pilots have planned ahead... **have you?**



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