

From my Devotional – “Soar High Devotional – for all would-be *High Flyers*”

Exodus 9:23 NIV – Lightning’s impression

*“When Moses stretched out his staff toward the sky, the LORD sent thunder and hail, and **lightning** flashed down to the ground. So the LORD rained hail on the land of Egypt;”*

There are a lot of powerful things we witness within this world that impress. Thunder and lightning make’s an impression (if not more) on everyone. No one escapes the realization of that the power from lightning and it is awesome to behold. When I was a young boy, two incidences come to mind. The first, was a home in the center of town that was saved by the fire department but completely scorched beyond repair by lightning. There in the middle of the front roof was a big hole where a lightning bolt struck which started the fire. This was my first realization that lightning could be devastating. The second, happened while I was walking to our elementary school in the afternoon. There, where all the kids parked their bikes under a tall power line pole, a lone lightning bolt struck it just a few feet from where I stood now frozen in my shoes. I could see the bolt and the pole’s top it hit and it was burnt and smoking. Was I impressed? You bet!

Now, I personally have never been struck by lightning but I have flown a number of aircraft that have. When it strikes it makes you sit up in preparation for what could follow. On a descent into ORD, flying in our Boeing 727, we exited the bottom layer of clouds and finally could see the incredible cityscape below when a loud explosive sound happened directly outside the right side of the cockpit, by my engineer’s panel. We had a lightning strike (more accurately described as a discharge). When it happened the noise was so loud and the flash so bright, I thought the worst. But seconds later we all realized we were still flying, which was a good thing, and reported back to the ATC about the strike just as United reported one of their own. On the ground when I did my inspection I called the Captain over and then mechanics because the aluminum skin had annealed. A circle about a foot in diameter on the skin was so flaky that you could push a finger through it. Our plane was taken out of service for repair.

Lightning demonstrates speed and power. Literally no one challenges that. Today, they stop sporting events if it is anywhere nearby. The Bible states that God controls the thunder and lightning. There is no better understandable demonstration of God’s power than this event when we see it happen within our atmosphere. And what’s the message we receive? Our God is swift and powerful. **Joshua 4:24** *“.....the LORD is **powerful** and so that you might always fear the LORD your **God**.”* Yes, standing in front, by or near, power is fearful. But that fear can lead to a good end as Proverbs states. **Proverbs 1:7** *“**The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and instruction.**”* A healthy fear of the Lord is a very good thing if you let it begin your trek towards knowledge. The next lightning sighting you see, think of the Creator and the immense and even unlimited power He holds in the palms of His hands. Thus, the beginning of Godly knowledge.