

# LEARNING FROM APOLLO 11

In 1969, millions of people watched the televised Apollo 11 takeoff, launching three men into space.

Those three men became the first humans to land on the moon. Many remember exactly where they were when they saw Astronaut Neil Armstrong take those historic first steps on the moon. We witnessed one of the greatest achievements in history.

A remarkable fact about this space trip is that more energy was used in the first few minutes during and after liftoff than during the next several days of traveling half a million miles to the moon. Tremendous energy was needed to break out of the earth's powerful gravitational pull.

Likewise, inertia is hard to overcome in life. We may feel it takes more energy to launch us into the morning than it does for us to go through the day.

Bad habits, past hurts, bitterness, half-hearted commitments and unconfessed sin can weigh heavily on our hearts, slow us down or keep us from going upward and onward with the Lord.

"The secret of daily life," said Macrina Wiederkehr, a Benedictine nun, "is there are no leftovers. There is nothing – no thing, no person, no experience, no thought, no joy or pain – that cannot be harvested and used for nourishment on our journey to God."

We may think some personal setback or business failure will prevent us from moving forward in our career. We may be convinced a difficult childhood will keep us from healthy, loving relationships. We may feel that a physical limitation will thwart a true fulfillment, but that is not so in God's kingdom.

Nothing that happens to us is wasted by the Lord. He uses everything for His life-building purposes when we give all our experiences to Him.

Today, give each weight or encumbrance that drags you down to God. Then watch them become fuel to propel you out of the "gravitational pull" of bad situations and into the joy of the Lord.

*Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us (Hebrews 12:1 NKJV).*

