

The Prayers of a Balloonist

After two failed attempts at landing, a balloonist panicked.

Frantically, he searched for a third spot to attempt a touchdown, but all he could see for miles was thick woods. He had only half of one tank of fuel left.

Nevertheless, he felt his only option was to hit the burners and try to find a clearing. Nearly paralyzed with fear, he cried out to God, “Help me. Take control of this situation. Lord, find me a safe place to land!”

With that prayer, a feeling of calm came over him. His fingers unclenched and he felt a wave of peace.

Even so, the landscape below sped by and he had no idea where his ground crew might be. Then he spotted a small clearing directly ahead – and in it, two of the biggest bulls he had ever seen.

“Lord, I trusted you to find me a safe place to land, and I trust you completely with those bulls!”

He held on tightly as the basket hit the ground roughly, tipped over, and was dragged along the ground for about 50 yards.

To his amazement, the bulls seemed oblivious to all the commotion. Almost instantly, his ground crew came racing toward him. One of them said, “You got caught in some nasty wind shear. It’s a miracle you kept control.”

The balloonist knew the true miracle. The true miracle was that he had given up control.



Perhaps you – like the balloonist – have been in situations in your life when you felt as if you had no options, no way out of some dilemma or circumstances you were facing.

I’ve been there. I’ve confessed to God that I didn’t know what to do. And I gave Him control. He was faithful in deliverance.

God may not always answer your prayers the way we think they ought to be answered. When we give up all control, and simply trust Him, He will handle any obstacle that gets in our way.

From the depths ... I called for help, and you listened to my cry (Jonah 2:2 NIV).

– Beecher Hunter