

Free Upgrade

Ten minutes before takeoff the flight attendant came to our seats in the back of the plane and offered a free upgrade to First Class. We didn't do anything to deserve it. Of all the passengers in the rear of the airplane, she chose us. The flight attendant told us it was merely to balance the plane.

God offers us a free upgrade to those who build a relationship with Him. Unlike our travels that day, the upgrade is to a different destination. Salvation is a free gift for all believers. Its destination is Heaven.

We had a choice whether or not to accept the American Airlines free upgrade. We knew that the ride would be different, with wider seats and more food service. If we accept God's invitation of salvation, it brings the privilege of being in the presence of Jesus for eternity and being reunited with loved ones of the faith.



In life, not everyone's destination is the same. Declaring Jesus as your Lord and Savior points you in an entirely different direction than those who reject Jesus Christ.

As you go through life, there will be turbulence along the way. No matter where you sit, there will be plenty of bumps to endure. Being a follower of Jesus doesn't eliminate the hurdles. But, when turbulence comes, God serves as your comforter, redeemer, and source of strength as you face life's difficulties. Without him, you are flying solo and at the mercy of the turbulence of life.



It costs nothing to accept God's free gift of salvation. It brings the Grace and Mercy of a loving Heavenly Father.

Interesting Postscript: You may think First Class travelers are seated at the front of the airplane, so they disembark first. First Class seats are closer to the exit door, but our luggage was in an overhead bin in the rear of the airplane. When the plane touched down, we had to let all the other passengers off the aircraft before we could go back to retrieve our own luggage. After all, the Bible tells us, *"The first shall be last, and the last shall be first"* (Matthew 20:16). It is not a race to arrive first, but to arrive at the right destination. We all have baggage. As followers of Christ, Jesus invites us to "leave our baggage behind" and join Him at the final destination.

That day, we aimed to make the connecting flight to our desired final destination. The vital connection is Heaven as our final destination. We can't earn it, but we all can accept it. *If you declare with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved* (Romans 10:9).

The Bible Says: *For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works so that no one can boast* (Ephesians 2:8-9).

Question: What destination are you seeking? Have you accepted Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior?

Prayer: Most gracious, Heavenly Father. You offer us a Heavenly destination. We desire more than an earthly destination. We accept your invitation and want to live with You for eternity. You are the way, the truth, and the life. We only come to you, Oh Lord, through Jesus. Amen.