**Mike Hipes – Facebook Lesson, July 6, 2020**

Good afternoon!

When you think about getting a lift, names like “Uber” may come to mind or “Lift.” Of course, the best lift one could ever get is a spiritual lift from God! Listen to these passages that describe how God lifts us up!

• “but those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary; they will walk and not be faint.” Isaiah 40:31

• “And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, 7 in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus.” Ephesians 2:6-7

• “The Lord sustains all who fall and raises up all who are bowed down.” Psalm 145:14

When it comes to getting a spiritual lift from God, this is what happened some years ago with a sweet woman named Dorothy!

Dorothy was an older woman who had been attending church services for some time while I was ministering in NY. Dorothy was also handicapped. She needed to wear metal braces on both of her legs. These braces extended from her ankles to her upper thighs. Without the leg braces, she would be completely dependent upon others to remain upright. One Sunday Dorothy decided that she was ready to obey the gospel and be baptized into Christ! However, due to her handicapped situation, she was somewhat fearful of removing her leg braces to be baptized. She said that she would be completely unable to help lift herself back up after being submerged in the water.

I told her that there was no need to be worried as I would bring another man into the baptistry to help her feel more secure. She agreed. Craig was a young man and friend from Texas who was doing mission work in NY at the congregation where I was serving. He worked alongside me at the church. He was always willing and ready to help. Craig was a slender young man with lots of enthusiasm! He was happy to assist me with Dorothy. As Dorothy removed her braces, we helped her into the water. We could see that she was very nervous, so Craig wanting to calm her some kept saying to her “I’ve got you Dorothy, don’t worry, I’ve got you Dorothy!” Putting her under the water was easy, but now due to her immobile legs, she was simply dead weight. She was not only unable to help us with lifting herself back up but now soaking wet the task was a real challenge! Dorothy was a tall woman, and as we began to lift her back up, I could see the strain on Craig’s face. Suddenly, Craig went from saying “I’ve got you Dorothy, I’ve got you Dorothy, to the Lord has you Dorothy, the Lord Almighty has you Dorothy!” I actually almost laughed out loud watching Craig through all of this! In the end, Dorothy was lifted up by us physically, but the Lord lifted her up spiritually! Galatians 3:27 tells us, “For all of us who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ.” Putting on Christ in baptism, having our sins washed away, and being on the road to glory; it doesn’t get any better than that! That’s what I call a spiritual lift! The result will make you want to thank God forever and ever!

Let’s close with a prayer of thanks from the Psalms.

“I will lift You up, O Lord, for You have lifted me up. You have not let those who hate me stand over me in joy. O Lord my God, I cried to You for help and You healed me. O Lord, You have brought me up from the grave. You have kept me alive, so that I will not go down into the deep. Sing praise to the Lord, all you who belong to Him. Give thanks to His holy name.” Psalm 30:1-4

Blessings,

Mike