

N O V E M B E R 8 2 0 2 1



A man's heart plans his way, But the LORD directs his steps. Proverbs 16:9 (NKJV)

Thought for today...

Annoyingly, sometimes the Lord will have us in a 'holding pattern'. The Merriam-Webster dictionary defines a holding pattern as an 'oval course flown by aircraft awaiting further clearance; especially to land.' Additionally, the Federal Aviation Agency describes a 'hold procedure', whereby a predetermined manoeuvre keeps aircraft within a specified airspace while awaiting further clearance from air traffic control.

Perhaps like me, you have sat in an aircraft anticipating its landing, only to hear an announcement that there will be a slight delay. Peering out of the window during this period of delay can be quite frustrating when catching sight of the land below, especially if time sensitive plans have been made and could be disrupted as a result.



Although we may have sight of the land below and can see no reason for the delay, air traffic controllers situated in towers can see what we cannot see and are privy to information that we do not have. Equipped with visual and radar tools, they are able to monitor takeoffs, landings and ground traffic, and to also provide crucial information to pilots, such as when they are cleared to land.

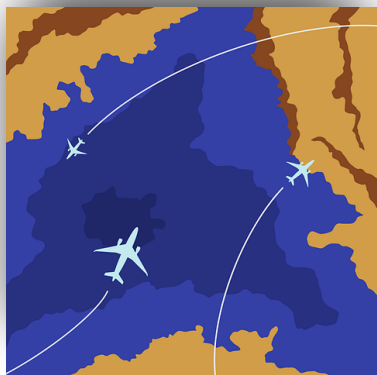
Upon receiving authorisation that it is clear to land, the pilot is able to disregard any holding position markings and use the entire landing length of the runway.

Have you been cleared to land, or are you being held in a holding pattern? As frustrating as the holding pattern may be: **‘Trust in the LORD with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding. Seek His will in all you do, and He will show you which path to take.’** Proverbs 3:5-6 (New Living Translation).

Any attempts to land without clearance is likely to result in harm to ourselves or others. Proverbs 14:12 warns: **‘There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way of death.’** (NKJV).

The Book of Isaiah further warns: **‘For My thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways My ways, declares the LORD.’** Isaiah 55:8 (English Standard Version).

Whatever plans and purposes God has for our lives, He is aware of how much fuel we need in our tanks, both to get us to our destination and to fly the path of the holding loop while we await clearance from Him to land. Rather than bemoan our time in the holding loop, let’s allow God to use that season to perfect us - to shape our character and demonstrate to others that the fruit of the Spirit is ripe, juicy and tasty in our lives!



Ecclesiastes 3:1 tells us: **‘To everything there is a season, a time for every purpose under heaven:’** (NKJV). I am confident that in due season, the control tower (our Father in Heaven), will announce that the entire length of the runway is clear for us to land and carry out our assignment according to His will and purpose.