

No Greater Love

Romans 5:1-11

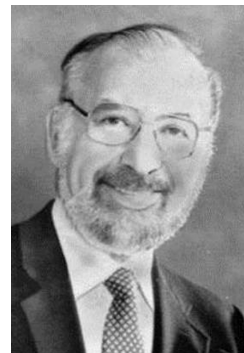
“Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends” (*John 15:13*).

During severe winter weather, January 13, 1982 Air Florida Flight 90 plunged into the icy waters of the Potomac River after slamming into the 14th Street Bridge. This incident is remarkable because of the heroics of one man, Arland D. Williams, Jr. There were 75 souls on the flight, but only five survived. Treading water, six people fought to survive. They struggled with broken arms, broken legs, and two had collapsed lungs. A rescue helicopter came about 15 minutes after the crash. They dropped a lifeline to one man who grabbed it and was carried to safety. The helicopter returned for Williams, but he passed the line to a flight attendant who was saved. Again, they returned, and Williams caught the line again but passed it to a severely injured man who was rescued along with two other women. It was now 29 minutes since the crash, and William’s turn had come at last, but he could not be found. He had put everyone else ahead of himself.

In remembering this incident, how our hearts turn to the self-denying, sacrificial love of our Saviour: “For scarcely for a righteous man will one die: yet peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die. But God commendeth His love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us” (*Rom. 5:7-8*). Some would dare to lay down their lives for their friends; Christ gave His life willingly for His enemies (*Rom. 5:10*), for the ungodly (*Rom. 5:6*) and for vile sinners (*Rom. 5:8*).

Hymnwriters have pondered the greatness of this sacrifice: “Amazing love, how can it be, that Thou, my God shouldst die for me?” “How can it be? How can it be? That God should love a soul like me, O how can it be?”

~George Zeller: www.middletonbiblechurch.org



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