

Lifelines

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Pastor, Gwynn's Island Baptist Church, Gwynn, VA

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Topic: Why do you love the Lord?

The Day Darkness Turned to Light!

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With the glut of information daily bombarding our minds, we rarely take time to really think about even important things. We react quickly and shallowly, rather than thinking purposely and deeply. Do you take time each day to ponder the place of God in your life, or just spend your day like a ball bouncing around in a pinball machine?

One of the things we tend to forget about is 9/11. But we mustn't forget!

It was a beautiful fall morning until 8:46am, when New Yorkers heard roaring engines above and moments later hijackers flew a passenger jet into the World Trade Center North Tower, momentarily leaving its smoky outline. Black smoke filled the sky, while shock and disbelief filled the observers. Those who did not die from the crash were trapped inside above the 91st floor.

At 9:03am, another passenger-laden hijacked jet flew into the South Tower. More shock, more despair, and more desperate attempts at escape. I will never forget the sight of people jumping off the upper floors of the towers, to avoid burning to death in the buildings. What a choice to have to make!

At 9:05am President George W. Bush, was told "America is under attack!" The President calmly left the classroom where he had been reading to children, and was whisked away to deal with a long and alarming series of events, and many difficult decisions.

At 9:37am Flight 77 crashed into the Pentagon, killing all passengers and 125 civilians and military personnel.

At 9:45am US airspace was shut down, under Operation Yellow Ribbon, by which all civilian aircraft were to land at the nearest airport.

On passenger Flight 93 hijackers took control of the pilot's cabin. At 9:57am some passengers try to take back the plane from the hijackers, and quickly ran to the front saying: "Let's roll!"

At 9:59am the South Tower collapsed to the ground.

At 10:02am, Flight 93 plowed into an empty field in Shanksville, Pennsylvania.

At 10:28am the North Tower collapsed.

On that day of infamy when terrorists attacked America, 2,977 people were murdered. Thousands more died in the months and years to follow from the fallout of that day's attacks. But let us also remember the hundreds, if not thousands, of heroic deeds that took place on that day, and the days that followed.

I know this contains a lot of information, but this information is worth remembering. Do you remember where you were at 9am on September 11, 2001, and how you felt when you saw such unbelievable evil manifested on your screen?

I remember that day vividly. Our family was serving as missionaries in Szeged, Hungary, and at 3pm a Hungarian friend called to ask if we were watching the news on TV, which we weren't. She said turn it on now, "Because something horrible is happening in America." We turned to British satellite news just in time to watch the second plane hit the tower. We watched in horror as the buildings collapsed and people staggered around covered with ashes from head to foot. We were

stunned speechless, in shock, but also so proud of our brave First Responders who put their lives on the line to help others.

But what could we do, living 6000 miles away? Our mission group and the State Department were telling Americans overseas to shelter in place, lie low, and don't speak English in public. Our first thought was, "No way! I needed to do something to let others know that I stood with our country when under attack."

So I took our American flag and tied it at half-mast to the pole in our front yard that held the basketball backboard. We received call after call from Hungarians friends to grieve with us, support us, and even pray for us, the survivors, and our country.

Ecclesiastes 2:12-13 states: "So I turned to consider wisdom, madness and folly; ... And I saw that wisdom excels folly, as light excels darkness." When we don't learn from the past, we repeat the mistakes of the past. When we don't take time to think, we lose the context and skills necessary for sound thinking. The world's culture is dumbing us down, and we're becoming mindless, and valueless. Americans who don't value this country and our system of government, are mindless. Turn to consider!

Light wins in the end, so step into, and live in, the Light of God's truth, instead of sinking into the darkness of the thoughtless. Thank God for the blessing of living in our country, and value that blessing! Do not forget!

Award-winning columnist Dr. Ed Jordan is pastor of Gwynn's Island Baptist Church, Gwynn, VA. He can be reached at szent.edward@gmail.com. Dr. Jordan's new book: "Doing Love! It can change your life!" can be purchased on Barnes&Noble.com or Amazon.com.