Hit That Cloud

Jesus said to him, "You have said it yourself; nevertheless, I tell you, hereafter you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of power and coming on the clouds of heaven." (Matthew 26:64, NASB)

I love the truth that golf is not just a technical game. It is also a study in visualization, emotion, and passion. It is played not only with the hands, but with the heart.

Former Masters champion Jackie Burke Jr. loved to visualize a shot before he even stepped up to the ball. Dr. David Cook coined the phrase S.F.T.: See it. Feel it. Trust it.

Mr. Burke's lesson to me made so much sense then, and I believe it still applies today. He would say, "Hit that cloud. Visualize the height, direction, and spin of the ball as it soars through the air and down that narrow fairway."

I could trust the shot because I could see it. Simply seeing the finished shot helped me slow down and make the swing to match.

In 2011, we were in Israel with Jeff Cranford and Marty Jacobus. What a glorious experience! Jeff was teaching from an open Bible on the Mount of Olives, with Jerusalem over his shoulder on the other side of the Kidron Valley.

I was taking photographs—on slide film, no less. Can you imagine? I looked up at the sky from the Mount of Olives and snapped a quick photo of the clouds. It wasn't until I returned home that inspiration came from that seemingly random shot of clouds over the Mount of Olives.

In Acts 1, Jesus is leaving this earth for the final time after His resurrection. He is with the disciples on the Mount of Olives, saying His final farewell. Can you imagine?

"And after He had said these things, He was lifted up while they were looking on, and a cloud received Him out of their sight. And as they were gazing intently into the sky while He was going, behold, two men in white clothing stood beside them. They also said, 'Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into the sky? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in just the same way as you have watched Him go into heaven.'" (Acts 1:9–11, NASB)

"The clouds are but the dust of the Father's feet. The clouds are a sign that He is there. What a revelation it is to know that sorrow and bereavement and suffering are the clouds that come along with God! God cannot come near without the clouds; He does not come in clear shining." (Oswald Chambers, My Utmost for His Highest)

And He is coming back one more time in the clouds, with a shout: “Enough!” He will gather His children to be with Him forever—home with Him above those beautiful clouds.

“Behold, He is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see Him, even those who pierced Him; and all the tribes of the earth will mourn over Him. So it is to be. Amen.” (Revelation 1:7, NASB)

Prayer: Lord, we are grateful for the here and now, and for Your promise of a home with You forever.

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Randy Wolff
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