

Chat With The Chaplain

We welcome back the Eagle Newsletter, and it's only here because of the hard work of some very dedicated folks who put a lot of time and energy into its production. Once again we get to drop in to see what's happening with ANI.

And, since we're talking about the Eagle, why not talk a little about the kind that fly? The eagle is referred to more than 30 times in the Bible, and for different reasons, depending on the context and subject matter. One of the most familiar and quoted passages is Isaiah 40:31, but I think that I'll start in Isaiah 40:28 and work through verse 31. It says, "Do you not know? Have you not heard? The everlasting God, the Lord, the creator of the ends of the earth, does not become weary or tired. His understanding is inscrutable (unfathomable). He gives strength to the weary, and to him who lacks might He increases power. Though youths grow weary and tired, and vigorous young men stumble badly, yet those who wait for the Lord will gain new strength; They will mount up with wings like eagles, They will run and not get tired, They will walk and not become weary".

We could head off in all sorts of directions from these verses, but we can start by understanding that we have a great God who never gets tired or runs out of gas. He's not at all like man. Secondly, we can take a look at verse 31 that speaks of 'Eagle's wings'. The eagle is the king of birds, not because he's the biggest dog on the block, but because he's the most majestic, and because he flies the highest in the heavens. This verse is referring to spiritual stamina and growth and the eagle is a picture of that. We know of course that the eagle gets his wings simply by being born in the first place. As he grows to maturity, his wings continue to grow as well, but he hasn't yet flown. Eventually the mother eagle comes along to stir up the nest, and with her beak, pushes the young eaglets out and over the cliff. As they flutter their wings and fall, the mother eagle "fluttereth over her young, spreadeth abroad her wings, taketh them, beareth them on her wings". (Deuteronomy 32:11), and as they hitch a ride on her wings, she takes them back to the nest and safety. She will continue this God-given instinct until the eaglets can fly on their own, and continue to grow.

How much more will God do for us? We obtain our "Spiritual Wings" when we are 'Born Again' and indwelt by the Holy Spirit. You may not have realized it at the time, but each believer has his or her own set of 'Eagles Wings' and God can and will teach you how to "...mount up with wings like eagles....", and use them. Just ask.

In a real sense, it's about growth. These verses in Isaiah seem to indicate 3 stages of Christian growth. They are:

- (1) The young Christian shall mount up as an eagle
- (2) The adult Christian shall run.
- (3) The mature Christian shall walk.

As we all know, as we age, physically as well as spiritually, our energy, our abilities, and our approach will change – and presumably for the better. These are worthy of a whole study by themselves.

---The Church (The body of believers in Jesus Christ – not a building) The only cooperative society on earth that exists for the benefit of non members.

---God's gift to us (This is a repeat but I love it!) – God gave each of us eyes equipped with 3D, high definition auto focus, and self-cleaning lenses, that can see a billion colors + in Panoramic real time, positioned on

a pan-tilt, image stabilizing neck. All of this is protected by a 'helmet', made of bone that in most cases meets or exceeds D.O.T.specs.

Wanted --- More Bikers in Heaven !!

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Chaplain

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