

ON WINGS OF EAGLES

Isaiah 40:27-31

I. What it means to wait (“hope”—NIV) in the Lord (Isaiah 40:31)

- A. “Wait” is the literal translation of Isaiah 40:31. But waiting is not passive; it is the pursuit of an encounter with God.
- B. “Will renew their strength” is this supernatural encounter with the Lord. God is not passive; He is active (Isaiah 41:28), and He releases that activity to us (Isaiah 41:29).
- C. After the resurrection, Jesus told His disciples to wait for supernatural power (Acts 1:4-8).
 - 1. Luke 24:50-53 records that they were not just hanging around. “They stayed continually at the temple, praising God” (Luke 24:53).
 - 2. Acts 1:12-14 records that they were “constantly in prayer.”
 - 3. Acts 2:1-4 records what happened next. The Church mounted up with wings of eagles on the wind of the Spirit.

II. Two kinds of winds caused the Early Church to fly.

- A. The wind of the Spirit (Acts 2:1-4,14-17, 38-41) preceded by constant praise and prayer (waiting) (Acts 1: 14; Luke 24:52-53)
 - 1. We see this same activity in Paul’s admonishment to the Ephesians to be “filled with the Holy Spirit” (Ephesians 5:17-20)
 - 2. Notice the place of singing and giving thanks.
- B. The wind of adversity—The wind of adversity takes us higher into God’s purposes. This is very pronounced in the Book of Acts (Acts 4:29-31; 5:40-42; 8:1-7; 16:25-31).
- C. Eagles live off of the wind.
 - 1. Turbulent winds cause eagles to fly higher, get a wider view for hunting, keep them above disgruntled hawks and crows, and stay up longer and fly faster.
 - 2. David was an eagle—a “praise-er” and a “pray-er” who accessed the wind of God (presence of the Spirit) and saw “the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living” (Psalm 27). Note Psalm 27:14, “Wait for the Lord.”

III. The promise for those who wait on the Lord is that “they will run and not grow weary” and “they will walk and not be faint” (Isaiah 40:31).

- A. Running speaks of the breakthroughs God gives us, catching us up in the rhythm of His advance through our lives (Acts 2:43-47).
 - 1. This is the time when the eagle swoops down on the prey
 - 2. Tumultuous winds cause the eagle to fly faster and more effectively to capture the prey.
- B. The walking without fainting in Isaiah 40:31 is the time when we are in a time of needing to endure. The wind of the Spirit keeps us flying. When trouble comes we go deeper with the presence of the Lord.