

On Wings of Eagles

Isaiah 40:27-31

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

- A. “Wait on the Lord” is the literal translation of Isaiah 40:31. But waiting, or hoping, is not passive. It is expectantly and joyfully positioning yourself (in a way consistent with God’s ways and character) to experience supernatural power from the Lord (Example of surfing).
- B. “Will renew their strength” and “soar with wings like eagles” are the supernatural help from God to overcome (Isaiah 40:31).
- C. God is active, never tired or disinterested (Isaiah 40:27-38). He gives power when we need it, exactly at the right time (Isaiah 40:29).

II. Two kinds of winds caused the Early Church to fly (Isaiah 40:31).

- A. The wind of the Spirit (Acts 2:1-4, 14-17, 38-41) preceded by constant praise and prayer—actively waiting and hoping (Luke 24:50-53; Acts 1:14)
 - 1. We see the 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 winds of adversity can take us higher and deeper into God’s purposes.
 - 1. Eagles use the wind to fly higher and faster and stay up longer all for the purposes of hunting more effectively. Eagles glide in the wind instead of exhausting themselves by flapping (Romans 8:28).
 - 2. The Book of Acts is the story of attack from the enemy and the counter-attack of the Lord, causing the ever-increasing progress of the Gospel. All through Church history this principle has been in place (Acts 4:29-31; 5:40-42; 8:1-8; 16:25-34).
 - 3. Example of Purim and Queen Esther. God’s purposes will always go forward. The only question is whether or not we decide to be a part of them (Esther 4:8-14).

III. The promise for those who hope in 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 seasons of breakthrough when God catches us up in the rhythms of advancement and promotions in our lives (Acts 2:42-47). This is like the time when the eagle swoops down on its prey.
- B. The walking without fainting in Isaiah 40:31 speaks of troubled times when we need to endure until we get to a new place.

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