

Waiting on the Lord—Soaring with 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. Waiting is not passive; it’s the pursuit of an encounter with God, like surfing (expectancy, positioning, joy).
- B. “Will renew their strength” (Isaiah 40:31) is a supernatural encounter with the Lord. God is not passive; He is active, not tired, nor disinterested (Isaiah 40:28). He releases strength and power even to the weary and weak (Isaiah 40:29-30).
- C. After the resurrection, Jesus told His disciples to wait and look for supernatural power (Acts 1:4-8). This instruction continues to this day.
 - 1. Luke 24:50-53 records the disciples were not just hanging around; they stayed continually at the temple, praising God, and praying.
 - 2. Acts 1:12-14 also records the disciples were constantly in prayer.
 - 3. Acts 2:1-4 records what happened in response to their waiting on the Lord. On the day of Pentecost, the Church mounted up with the wings of eagles on the very wind of the Spirit (Isaiah 40:31).

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

- A. The wind of the Spirit (preceded by constant praise and prayer) (Luke 24:50-53; Acts 1:12-14)
 - 1. We see this same activity in Paul’s admonishment to the Ephesians to be “filled with the Holy Spirit” (continually filled) (Ephesians 5:17-20).
 - 2. Notice the place of singing and giving thanks.
- B. The wind of adversity (takes us more deeply 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 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 who praised and prayed to access the wind of God (the presence of the Spirit) and saw “the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living” (Psalm 27).
 - 3. When David faced the Lord, he knew God would face his enemies (Psalm 27:2, 3, 5, 6, 10-12). That’s why he could confidently say, “Wait for the Lord” (Psalm 27:14).

III. The promise for those who actively wait (hope) on the Lord is that “they will run and not grow weary” and “they will walk and not faint.” In fact, they will “soar on wings like eagles” (Isaiah 40:31).

- A. Running speaks of the breakthrough God gives us, catching us up in the rhythm of His advance in our lives (Acts 2:42-47).
- B. When trouble comes, we go deeper into the presence of the Lord; and the wind of the Spirit takes us higher!

Mike Hudgins, September 17, 2023