

Series: Like Eagles
1 Created to fly
Isaiah 40.28-31

Have you never heard? Have you never understood? The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of all the earth. He never grows weak or weary. No one can measure the depths of his understanding. He gives power to the weak and strength to the powerless. Even youths will become weak and tired, and young men will fall in exhaustion. But those who trust in the Lord will find new strength. They will soar high on wings like eagles. They will run and not grow weary. They will walk and not faint. These promises begin with two questions because there are many that haven't heard and understood the greatness and love of our God for each of us. The secret to be triumphant in life lies not in our strength and personal abilities, but in placing our trust in the Lord. It's not about what you are able to do, but it's about who God is and what He can do in you and through you.

Psalm 31:19 adds to these promises by saying: **No eye has seen, no ear has heard, and no mind has imagined what God has prepared for those who love him.**" The Lord wants to give us new things and take us "to soar" like eagles. They do it effortlessly because they submit and use the air currents. When we learn to live submitted to God and let the Holy Spirit lead us, we will learn to fly and experience new and amazing things with the Lord.

Flying with God is an adventure and you will be amazed with what He will do in you and through you. But this is only possible when we obey and give God the priority He should have in our lives.

1. The example of the eagles

a. Most birds know when they are ready to fly and at the right time leave the nest. But that doesn't happen with the small eagles. Although they are old enough, and have the potential and ability to fly, they do not know or show interest in doing so. They need to be forced out of the nest.

b. When the right time comes, the mother eagle pushes them off the nest and if the nest is not high enough, she takes them higher and releases them under the supervision of the father because if they don't learn to fly at the first attempt he grabs them before they collide with the ground.

c. It is in this process, while losing altitude, that the small eagles open its wings and experiences the wind and currents for the first time. I imagine that they feel a mixture of fear and adventure, but this is how they learn to fly and find that they were not created to live in the nest.

2. What can we learn from the eagles? Luke 9.1-2 says that: **One day Jesus called together his twelve disciples and gave them power and authority to cast out all demons and to heal all diseases. Then he sent them out to tell everyone about the Kingdom of God and to heal the sick.** Until now the disciples had been with Jesus, watched what he did, learned with His example, benefited from His miracles, enjoyed His presence; but now Jesus calls them to leave the nest and empowers them to do what's was expected of them: to preach the Gospel to all, to heal the sick and drive out all demons.

The disciples could have said: "Thanks for the authority and power but it is good as it is, we'd rather stay with you." But that was not an option, then or now, they would have to go because the Disciples of Christ weren't created to live in the nest. The Lord calls us out so that we might fulfill the purpose He has for us, as individuals and as a church.

There comes a time when God takes us to the edge of the nests of our life and says. "I'm giving you power and authority, therefore go and do what I command you". This is what flying is all about.

The problem is that quite often rather than obeying and trusting Him to fly, we focus on the risk, doubts, limitations, fear and the price we'll pay. We forget that God is not only interested in our spiritual birth but also that we might fly, using the gifts, talents and passion he has given us.

God expects us to live a life for Him that goes beyond our nest and if we do not obey freely, sometimes God does the same as the mother eagle and "pushes us out of the nest." It is for our good, so that we might do what otherwise we wouldn't, so that we learn to learn to fly, reach our potential and fulfill His purpose for our lives.

Sometimes we aren't willing to trust God but He has ways of helping us to spread our wings and fly. In such times we shout "God, I'm falling" (as if He didn't know!) and His answer is, "learn to fly". Other times, Life's circumstances make us fall from the nest, and God uses them to teach us to fly. Either way you can rely on the fact that: **The Lord directs the steps of the godly. He delights in every detail of their lives. Though they stumble, they will never fall, for the Lord holds them by the hand.** Psalm 37.23-24

3. How did the disciples respond to Jesus' call? Luke 9.6 **So they set out and went from village to village, proclaiming the good news and healing people everywhere.** They heard the call and went stretching their wings, doing exactly what Jesus commanded them to do. Like them we'll have to hear the call God and do what He expects of us.

Illustration – I read a story of an eagle that was captured when little and was created with chickens. The eagle grew and when she saw other eagles flying on high she would tell the chickens that she felt that she was made to fly. "Do not be stupid, we are chickens not eagles, you will never be like them, do not try it." And so she died being an eagle but behaving like a chicken. Many Christians believe they are chickens instead of eagles, and because our actions follow our thoughts, they never reach their potential.

We are eagles and God encourages us to spread our wings and fly where we've never been before, He wants us to dream and achieve those dreams. God wants you to experience more than just survival. God wants you to be involved in something bigger than yourself, something you can't do without Him. As we try to do it we might experience fear, but those are opportunities for us to depend on God. Often the things we want to avoid are the very things that can help us reach our potential.

Five things that can teach us to fly, that will help us stretch our wings

a. Steps of Obedience. Many people know what God wants them to do but they don't follow through. For example to be baptized, to give, to get rid of the things that we know keep us from growing.

b. Physical problems. Illnesses represent opportunities for us to trust and seek God. It's amazing what a disease can do to for our spiritual growth.

c. Problems in our relationships. Difficulties in our marriage, in our family, with the children, at work, etc., represent opportunities for God to teach us how to stretch our wings.

d. Financial hardships. There are times in our lives when we face financial problems, perhaps as a consequence of bad decisions or because of life's the circumstances, but we can grow through these problems. They are opportunities to seek the wisdom of God and to make changes that will help us surpass the difficulties.

Illustration - Speaking of problems, I remember as a child that my mother would bake a cake every Sunday. I watched mix flour, eggs, lemon, starch, sugar, vanilla, etc. I would anxiously wait for her to put the dough in the

oven, because there was always a little left for me to eat. One day I did not wait for her to start and decided to try the ingredients separately. With the exception of the sugar they tasted horrible! I didn't understand how it was possible to put them all together and make something so tasty. That reminds me that the same happens in our lives. Some, or maybe most, of the ingredients of our life may not be pleasant but if we put everything in God's hands, He can transform them into something positive, as God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love Him. Romans 8.28

e. The opportunities to serve God and His Church. God gives us opportunities to serve and unless we accept them, we won't learn to fly. (Prayer groups, house groups, help with cleaning of the church, visitation, outreach, and so on.)

In what areas of your life is God stretching you? God wants us to live out of the nest and trust Him. Spread your wings by faith, surrender yourself into His hands.

Illustration - In the United States, during the Christmas holidays, many people have the custom of offering jars with ingredients for folks to make a recipe, as we see in this picture. The jars are so beautiful that some end up using them for decoration, though that was not the purpose of the gift. This makes me think that God doesn't want us to be decorative jars (Christians).



Although the jars come with recipes about how to use its ingredients, they can be used for other purposes, but only when they are used according to the instructions, is when they can be enjoyed and shared. Similarly, we can use what God gives us for other purposes, but we won't achieve our purpose and bless others.

a. An adventure with God begins when we surrender our lives in His hands and acknowledge that we are sinners with a need of a Savior to forgive our sins and transform our lives.

b. The adventure continues when we make Christ the Lord of our life, when we give Him the place and the priority He deserves. Some of you are well aware that God isn't the priority of your lives, therefore you aren't getting where God wants you to go or enjoying the life God has for you.

As the disciples did, we must hear and respond to Jesus' call to go and tell everyone about the Kingdom of God, cast out all demons and heal the sick.

Perhaps today you are feeling helpless because of financial, physical, marital or any other problems. God says today that He wants to use those things to teach you to fly. Psalms 37.3-5 **Trust in the Lord and do good. Then you will live safely in the land and prosper. Take delight in the Lord, and he will give you your heart's desires. Commit everything you do to the Lord. Trust him, and he will help you.**