

Lessons From An Eagle Part I – Learning to Fly Higher

Definition of higher:

To be above the common or ordinary.

To pass beyond the ordinary limits.

When I ask, “Do you want to come up higher?”

I'm asking, “Do you want to go above the common and the average?” “Do you want to come up above ordinary limits?”

God’s Example In The Eagle.

Proverbs 30:18-20 – Solomon said,

*18 "There are three things that are too amazing for me,
four that I do not understand...*

19 the way of an eagle in the sky,

Eagles are strong, magnificent, majestic!

Isaiah 40:31

But those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.

Where does an eagle soar? Not low near the ground...but high in the sky.
Above the things below.

New Living Translation:

Isaiah 40:31

31 But those who wait on the LORD will find new strength. They will fly high on wings like eagles. They will run and not grow weary. They will walk and not faint.

There are several things an eagle **does** and **does not** do!

1. An eagle does not run from the wind

- You can't keep running from things
- Some of you have been running your whole life
- You can't move forward while you are looking backwards!
- Dwelling on the past will keep you in the past!

Philippians 3:13-14 Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the HIGH calling of God in Christ Jesus.

- Looking back will keep you on the ground
- Reaching forward and pressing gets you the prize of the high calling!

2. An eagle turns and faces the wind head on

- There comes a point when you must stop running!
- You must decide to face that thing once and for all!
- It may be an issue, a struggle, a lifestyle, a temptation
- Whatever it is you must face it to conquer it!

Romans 8:37 Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us.

3. An eagle does not fight the wind

- Some of us fight the wind!
- As soon as winds of adversity blow our flesh reacts
- We swing wildly at things we can't even see

1 Corinthians 9:26

Therefore I do not run like a man running aimlessly; I do not fight like a man beating the air.

- An eagle knows he cannot win against the wind
- If he continues to flap his wings he will soon deplete his strength and plummet to the ground!

4. An eagle positions his wings spread in surrender

- Surrender means we stop fighting
- We lift our hands to the Lord and say "I give up"
- Surrender means ... "Lord, I give this thing to you"

James 4:10 Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up.

Important: Whether an eagle ever gains height or not all **depends on the position** of his wings!

Airplane flaps must be in position for take off.

5. **An eagle does not fear the wind**

All fears usually stem from 3 lacking things –

- Lack of UNDERSTANDING

We fear because we can't see the reasons and don't know "why this is happening"

- Lack of SECURITY

We fear we are alone and the thing will hurt or kill us. We feel unsafe.

- Lack of TRUST

We fear because we have no control in the matter.

6. **An eagle trusts the wind to lift him up**

The eagle knows that if he has positioned his wings correctly and faces the wind – what seems like opposition or resistance will actually work to his benefit and carry him upwards.

Visual of wind

In the spiritual we also must trust the wind.

"How can I trust the wind?"

In order for me to trust the wind, I must trust the creator of the wind.

If I don't understand I must trust the one who has all understanding and sees the beginning from the end!

- *Romans 8:28 And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.*

If I feel weak and insecure, I must trust the one who holds me securely in his hand!

- *Romans 8:35 who shall separate us from the love of Christ?*

When things are out of my control, I must trust the one who is in control!

- *Matthew 8:27 they marveled saying, "what manner of man is this, that even the winds and the sea obey him!"*

If I am ever going to fly high I must trust the creator of the wind!

- *Amos 4:13 He who forms the mountains, creates the wind, ... and treads the high places of the earth- the LORD God Almighty is his name.*

How does God use the wind for good!

Genesis 8:1 – He sent a wind and receded the flood waters.

Exodus 14:21 – He delivered his people and sent a strong east wind to drive back the red sea.

Psalm 18:10 – God soars on the wings of the wind!

Psalm 104:3 – He rides on the wind!

Jeremiah 30:23 – He sends a swirling wind down on the heads of the wicked!

Ezekiel 37: 5 – He sends the wind to breathe life into dry dead bones!

Book of Jonah - He sends a great wind on the sea to get the attention of a wayward prophet.

Mark 4:39 – He teaches the disciples that the winds must obey him!

Acts 2:2 – He sends his power like a mighty rushing wind!

You never know what God is up to when he allows the winds to blow in your life!

- He can be parting obstacles for you
- Destroying your enemies
- Bringing you back when you stray
- Breathing life into your dead spirit!
- Teaching you his Lordship
- Filling you with power!
- Teaching you how to fly higher!

Conclusion:

- The only way that an eagle gains height is to have wind.
- Without the wind he cannot soar. He is earth bound!
- Without the winds I will never soar like an eagle!
- If I ask the Lord to remove the winds from my life I will never go higher.
- In fact I will remain earth bound!
- I can flap my wings and gain some altitude when there is no wind, but how long will my strength hold out to keep flapping?
- When my strength quits, I will plummet to the ground!
- I must have the winds in my life to take me higher!

Without it we remain ordinary and common.