

Soar Like an Eagle



Faith is taking the first step even when you don't see the whole staircase.”
Martin Luther King

*“Though youths grow weary and tired,
And vigorous young men stumble badly,
Yet those who wait for the Lord will
gain new strength; They will mount up
with wings like eagles, They will run and
not get tired, They will walk and not be-
come weary.”*

Isaiah 40:30-31

What does our life have to do with a bird? There is a beautiful song called “On Eagle’s Wings” written by Michael Joncas that has served as an inspiration to many. It is based on a couple verses in Isaiah. The refrain tells of the promise we all have who trust in the Lord. *“And He will raise you up on eagle's wings, Bear you on the breath of dawn, Make you to shine like the sun, And hold you in the palm of His hand.”*

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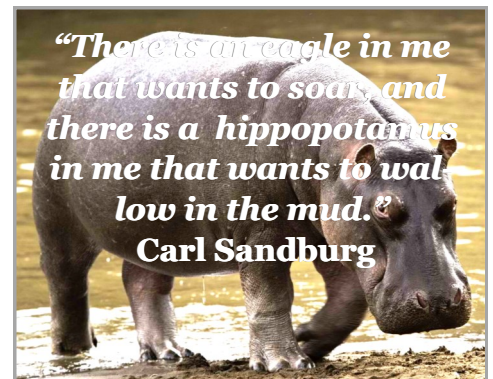
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To the casual observer the eagle seems to fly without any effort—just resting on the air that lifts him up. But that is a wonderful supportive air under him. We have that same air under us and yet we don’t fly like an eagle. There is effort there that we don’t see. If you watch an eagle fly it appears to be almost motionless. This majestic bird may have a wing span over eight feet and weigh up to 15 pounds.

The verses leading up to the quote in Isaiah is written to Babylonians who have been in captivity. Isaiah questions them. He tells them that God has not lost track of them. He asks if they have been listening. Isaiah tells them that God does not get tired out. He knows everything, but they don’t hear what he is saying. We are often like the people Isaiah was speaking to. We don’t listen. We are told that God does care for us. He will be the wind under our wings. He will teach us how to fly.

We have been given an instruction book, but we hide it in a drawer somewhere and seldom take it out to read unless we get into trouble. We are told we will not be entangled by this life if we focus on our spiritual preparation for His appearance.

The Babylonians were humans just like us. They doubted. They had hope, but there were also many difficulties. Isaiah told them the same strength that was there for the eagle was there for them. It is there for us today. All these promises do not make it easy though. We need to comfort one another and share our promises and build our faith.



*“There is an eagle in me
that wants to soar, and
there is a hippopotamus
in me that wants to wal-
low in the mud.”*
Carl Sandburg

During the time of training her young ones to fly, a mother eagle throws the eaglets out of the nest. Because they are scared, they jump into the nest again. Next, the mother eagle pushes the eaglets off the cliff into the air. As they shriek in fear, father eagle flies out and catches them up on his back and brings them back to the cliff. This goes on for some time until they learn to start using their wings to fly.

The mother eagle will push her young from the nest. The father is always there to catch them until they eventually learn to fly. We need to be the mother that teaches God's grace and love, and also the father that catches people when they fall. Only then can we all learn to fly.

Eagles don't always have a soft and easy life, nor will we. Just as the eagle flies God is calling us to wait on Him and learn to soar higher, above the cares, trials, and trivial pursuits of life. We have a Heavenly Father who never gives up on us. Sure, we are going to fail sometimes. We are going to do things that we know we shouldn't do, but that does not make us a failure. God knew that a long time before we were born.



God sent His Son to die for our sins and to tell us we are free to fly. We are freed from all our sins through His sacrifice and salvation. One day we will soar. We will be with our Heavenly Father and we will be free to soar.

We can do the human thing and worry about everything, or we can put it in God's hands through our faith. The choice is ours.

Prayer: Father, we thank You for the wonderful promise that You are always with us. You never give up even though we often sin and hide from doing what we know is right. We fail to have the faith that we should always have. Help us to feel free

to soar like an eagle knowing that You are with us and You will never give us control even though we want it because You know that we don't have the ability to handle it. Thank You for Your constant care, love and understanding. Amen

1. Do you ever want to be like the hippopotamus?
2. What strengths do we have to help us overcome that desire?
3. How does our faith compare to flying like an eagle?
4. What choice can we make about our life?

Which are we?



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On a lighter note, in the musical 1776, a song is sung "The Egg" about the choice of a national symbol for the United States. The choice seems to be between the eagle and the turkey. Actually while there is some truth in the choice of the national symbol, there is also a lot of play on this choice. The song is good and entertaining.

In a letter to Franklin's daughter, he wrote "*I am on this account not displeased that the Figure is not known as a Bald Eagle, but looks more like a Turkey. For the Truth the Turkey is in Comparison a much more respectable Bird, and withal a true original Native of America... He is besides, though a little vain & silly, a Bird of Courage, and would not hesitate to attack a Grenadier of the British Guards who should presume to invade his Farm Yard with a red Coat on.*"