

The Wind Beneath Our Wings

09/23/2018

Isaiah 40:28-31

28 Do you not know? Have you not heard? The Everlasting God, the LORD, the Creator of the ends of the earth does not become weary or tired. His understanding is inscrutable. 29 He gives strength to the weary, and to him who lacks might, He increases power. 30 Though youths grow weary and tired, and vigorous young men stumble badly, 31 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 become weary.

In ancient Biblical days, and throughout history, people have believed that their problems were so great that even God did not know what to do. Some people have believed and believe today that their lives and choices are hidden from God and that they somehow don't receive the justice due them. Their trials are ignored by God and their concerns are nonconcerns to God.

Our Bible verse reproves those erred beliefs. God's omniscience is unfathomable; our limited human mental capacity cannot grasp the mind or consciousness of the Holy One of Existence.

Truly, to take advantage of all the benefits that God promises is simple. In Psalm 91:14-16, God tells us what is expected:
“Because he loves me,” says the LORD, “I will rescue him; I will protect him, for he acknowledges my name. He will call on me, and I will answer him; I will be with him in trouble, I will deliver

him and honor him. With long life I will satisfy him and show him my salvation.”

Because we love God, we are protected and rescued from our trials. We are not spared our challenges, for it is important that we experience them in order to learn, grow, and become stronger. But when we call upon God, we are heard. As we acknowledge and trust God, we are delivered, satisfied, saved, and honored.

There is a basic expectation by God: that we love, trust, and spend time with the Presence of God. We are to focus our minds on God and be aware of Spirit in an around us. Although our connection with God is spiritual and is beyond the physical world, it still begins with our physical minds. We must overcome the attraction of the human and worldly influences and heed the call of Spirit.

The Bible uses actual examples from real life as well as wonderful spiritual metaphors and allegories to describe God and our relationship with God. I particularly like the eagle simile in Isaiah because it describes how God attends to our humanity. When we wait upon the Lord our strength is renewed; we will soar on wings like eagles, and we will walk and not faint. In other words, when we move into prayer and experience the presence of God, we are filled with strength, courage, confidence, vitality, and hope. We are transformed and renewed as faith, wisdom, joy, peace, and love flow through us.

In Exodus 19: 3-4 we read: ³ *Then Moses climbed the mountain to appear before God. The LORD called out to him from the*

mountain and said, "Give these instructions to the descendants of Jacob, the people of Israel: ⁴ 'You have seen what I did to the Egyptians. You know how I brought you to myself and carried you on eagle's wings.

We are lifted by the Grace of God, just as the eagle is lifted when its wings catch the winds. In a moment, I am going to sing the song "The Wind Beneath My Wings". Ironically, the scientists in the room tell us that the metaphor of the eagle being lifted by the wind under its wings is incorrect. An eagle is lifted by the wind above the wings, not under. So too, we are lifted by the winds of Spirit from a higher level of consciousness than we are presently living; it is the winds of spirit above our wings that creates the loving lift we need. Sill, it is a beautiful song, even if scientifically flawed.

The more we surrender to Spirit, letting go of our egoistic desire to control and manage our own lives unassisted, the more easily we ascend beyond the effects of our earthly journey. As we become trained, practiced, and experienced in the ways of life, learning the ways of love, release and forgiveness, God raises us to ever higher levels. When we get tired, God is always near, ready to lift us, carry us, and guide us.

At the height of apartheid in South Africa, Bishop Desmond Tutu was leading a worship service in St. George's Cathedral. The walls were lined with soldiers and riot police carrying guns and bayonets, ready to close it down. Bishop Tutu began to decry the evils of the apartheid system, and how the rulers and authorities that supported it were bound to fail. As he pointed a finger at the

police who were there to record his words, he said, “You may be powerful- very powerful... but you are not God! God cannot be mocked! You have already lost!” Then in that moment of unbearable tension, the bishop seemed to soften. Coming out from behind the pulpit, he flashed that radiant Tutu smile and began to bounce up and down with joy. “Therefore, since you have already lost, we are inviting you to join the winning side!” The crowd roared, the police melted away, and the people began to dance- Catching the wind beneath their wings, being lifted up, dancing on the Wind. We are the wind beneath their wings, Lord! We are the power, and their hope, and the courage! We are the dance and the play, even in the face of bayonets and prison, in the face of disappointment, disaster, and division!

We may never escape the challenges of life, but with God we don't have to fear them or wonder if we have the strength to endure or the courage to face them. The Christ says in Matthew 11:28 “Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.” When we come unto the Christ, in prayer, our minds, and hearts ... our burdens are lifted; our perspectives change; fear and exhaustion are relieved, and we feel younger. God's Spirit is within each of us, and in Spirit there is only radiant, dynamic, ageless life, energy, and joy. Our mere thoughts of God stir up that truth within us and we feel vitally alive, strong, healthy, and enthusiastic.

As we allow ourselves to be gathered up by God, love flows. It is so close; we are so close to the incredible peace, love, joy, strength, and majesty of God. We only need to keep hold of loving

and positive thoughts about God, about ourselves, and about everyone we encounter. When we can do that, we can look upon the depressing and disdainful activities of humanity with love, compassion, understanding, and forgiveness. We are more and more grateful for the Creator and all of Creation.

I've heard it said that there are only two gifts we can give our children: Roots and wings. Roots to know where home is, where our heart is, and where our values lie so that they can choose between the true and the false, the just and the unjust. And wings that will teach a child how to soar into wider and still wider worlds of understanding, God-consciousness, and give them the ability to apply what they have been taught.

As a good parent, God gives us these same two gifts. Roots to know where home is, and wings to lift us higher. And the wind of Spirit is blowing, swirling in us, around us, and through us. We can feel the wind in our confusion, as we wrestle with our old ways and consider what Christ is asking of us: love God. Love the people who love you as well as your enemies. Love everyone who is not you as you love yourself. We can feel this wind as we reach out to others and help them even though it may be outside of our comfort zone. We can feel this wind of Spirit as we release the fears, hurts, and pains of the past and allow God's comforting breeze to carry forgiveness into our hearts. When that thought blows into our heart, mind, and soul, and as we spread our wings of awareness we are lifted up; raised higher and higher, above all the dilemmas, confusion, and challenges that the world uses to keep us ego-bound.

My prayer is that we live a life of joy, courage, strength, and peace. I pray that we are fully aware that God is always with us, and that we are protected, guided, and are being trained. Above all, I pray that we know that we are loved, and that the winds of spirit flow over us, able to carry us over all of life's difficulties as we abandon our earthly tethers, spread our wings, and soar.

Let us pray....