

I remember as a child, how big of a deal it was to see someone off at the airport. This was back in a day when you could walk someone to the gate. We then go outside and watch the plain take off. What a magnificent event to witness. The power of those turbine jets lifting the payload of a massive airliner.

It takes a lot of work to lift an airliner.

God built us to fly. But we struggle to do so. We "flap our arms" every day when we take on the worries of the world. When we make plans for our lives trying to guess the future. When we store up things to provide security. We work hard, study hard, to get ahead and soar.

But after all this, we are just exhausted.

Psalm 103:2–5 (NRSV)

- <sup>2</sup> Bless the LORD, O my soul,  
and do not forget all his benefits—
- <sup>3</sup> who forgives all your iniquity,  
who heals all your diseases,
- <sup>4</sup> who redeems your life from the Pit,  
who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy,
- <sup>5</sup> who satisfies you with good as long as you live  
so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.

There was a medieval superstition that every ten years the eagle soared into the 'fiery region' of astrologers, and then plunging into the sea, acquired new life and plumage.

My son Alex and I workout now. I am sore every day.

Author, poet Carl Sandburg (1878-1967)

"There is an eagle in me that wants to soar, and there is a hippopotamus in me that wants to wallow in the mud."

Isaiah 40:28–31 (NRSV)

- <sup>28</sup> The LORD is the everlasting God,  
the Creator of the ends of the earth.  
He does not faint or grow weary;  
his understanding is unsearchable.
- <sup>29</sup> He gives power to the faint,  
and strengthens the powerless.
- <sup>30</sup> Even youths will faint and be weary,  
and the young will fall exhausted;
- <sup>31</sup> but those who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength,  
they shall mount up with wings like eagles,  
they shall run and not be weary,  
they shall walk and not faint.

I want that. How do we get that?

Flying gliders was a hobby for the late Steve McQueen. He told a story once about flying in the Rockies. He hit a thermal and rode it up to 20,000 feet. That's extremely high for a glider. He said, "You will never believe what I saw up there. I looked out the window, and I saw eagles. It looked as though they were asleep." The eagles were riding the air currents. They didn't have to propel themselves along. They just rode the winds. An eagle has an inborn ability to discern the motion of air currents. The eagle will not take wing until the right breeze comes along. When it comes, all the eagle does is let go and ride the wind.

In ancient languages, the words "wind" and "spirit" are often translated from the same word. For example,

- the Hebrew word *ruach*,
- the Greek word *pneuma*,
- and the Latin word *spiritus* each mean both "wind" and "spirit."

*Life On Wings*, Terry Fullam

Just as eagles wait for the wind to bear them up, an eagle Christian is so sensitive to the movement of God's Spirit that he waits until he discerns the movement of the Spirit, and then gets with it. He's borne aloft. He rides wherever the Spirit takes him. It's not our hard work for God that's going

to count; only that which the Spirit of God has accomplished through us will last.

What would soaring feel like? Just lifted up gliding above the struggle of the world.

“Soarin’” at Disney

Align your will with God’s will.

Otherwise, instead of eagles we are more “like ducks”. Ducks are flapping, using their necks, honking. A lot of effort.

Jesus Christ did the hard work, so we can soar.

Jesus was “raised” and so can we.

Mount Up