

# The Wind Beneath Our Wings

Sunday Morning, May 1, 2016

Have you ever given much thought to Isaiah 40:31

**(Isaiah 40:31)**

But those who wait on 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.

Most birds fly by flapping their wings. They use all their own energy. Eagles, however, are built for soaring, not flapping; that allows them to travel much farther on less energy. God designed our planet to have invisible columns of hot air called thermals which rise up in various places from the earth surface. God designed Eagles to know how to find those thermals. They fly into these invisible updrafts, stretch out their wings, and are lifted higher into the sky as though ascending on an elevator. They travel for miles with very little exertion of strength. It is a perfect picture for us as Christians and as a Church Body. God, Himself, is an invisible, uplifting thermal current. When we claim His promises and trust His Word, we are spreading out the wings of faith and are caught up to a higher plane. As Isaiah foretold in this passage, we can..."mount up with wings like eagles,". We will renew our strength, run, and not be weary, walk and not faint. The question is whether as Christians or as a Church Body are we depending on the thermal updrafts of God provided by His Holy Spirit to carry us along as we live and do His Work? Or we like those in the world, living without depending on His Holy Spirit and frantically flapping our wings to get through life?

As we spoke about last week...the body needs to be run by the Head of Christ. When each of us received Christ as our Savior, He gave us the gift of the Holy Spirit and access to all the resources we needed to live as individuals and function as a healthy church body. Christ serves as the Head of our body through the Holy Spirit in each of our lives.

**(Acts 1: 4 – 5, 8)**

4 And being assembled together with them, He commanded them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the Promise of the Father, "which," He said, "you have heard from Me;

5 for John truly baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now."

8 But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me[a] in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

We have all been given the Holy Spirit and received power. We have all been given the ability and command to witness for Him.

As a result of this gift, every aspect of our Church and Ministries should be Holy Spirit inspired, led, provided for, etc. All members of the body should be hearing the Holy Spirit speak to them and guide them as Worship Services, Bible Studies, Events, etc., are planned and carried out. There should be unity in decisions. The "eye" of our body might see the vision, the "hands" might have the skill to do a particular job in the vision. Whatever the case, the Holy Spirit will be involved in every aspect as Christ the Head reveals through Him to us.

**(John 14:12)**

Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also; and greater works than these he will do, because I go to My Father.

We have been assured we will do greater works because of the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Do we see that as common in the body of Christ here at this church or in the church at large around the world?

The First-Century Church did mighty works by the Holy Spirit's prompting and empowering.

**(Acts 2:1,4)**

1 When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord[a] in one place.

4 And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

**(Acts 4:31)**

And when they had prayed, the place where they were assembled together was shaken; and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and they spoke the word of God with boldness.

It was everyone! Not just the Apostles! (Or Leaders in today's church)

The Holy Spirit will teach us all things we need to know.

**(John 14:26)**

But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you.

As I spoke about last...God placed each of us here and made us as a specific body part and has a purpose for each one of us.

We have all been given the same Spirit to carry out our purpose in this body and in our lives.

**(I Corinthians 12:13)**

For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free—and have all been made to drink into[a] one Spirit.

Therefore, we all have the same Spirit guiding, teaching, gifting and empowering us. We are all needed and all have the same Spirit, the Holy Spirit.

As we also spoke about last week...the body needs to be whole and healthy to function effectively. 20 members out of 100 can not be working in a healthy effective and unified way for the Lord. It takes all of us in a unified Spirit for this body to be healthy and productive.

**(Acts 4:32 – 35)**

32 Now the multitude of those who believed were of one heart and one soul; neither did anyone say that any of the things he possessed was his own, but they had all things in common.

33 And with great power the apostles gave witness to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. And great grace was upon them all.

34 Nor was there anyone among them who lacked; for all who were possessors of lands or houses sold them, & brought the proceeds of the things that were sold, 35 and laid them at the apostles' feet; and they distributed to each as anyone had need.

Each First-Century Church Christian helped the others. They were unified. They were sacrificial. They were giving of time, service and money for God's Kingdom work and people.

The Apostle Paul calls us to walk worthy.

**(Ephesians 4: 1 - 7)**

1 I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called, 2 with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love, 3 endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. 4 There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called in one hope of your calling; 5 one Lord, one faith, one baptism; 6 one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.

7 But to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of Christ's gift.

. He points out that we are to have humility, gentleness, patience, acceptance of others, love and be keeping unity in the body.

If we allow the Holy Spirit to work in our midst the body will be in unity and these fruits of the Spirit will be seen. Each member will be humble and gentle and peaceable in their actions towards others. There will not be squabbles. They will be united in opinions, actions and decisions. Because each member will be hearing what the Holy Spirit is teaching or telling them or leading them and the body to do.

**(Galatians 5: 19 – 25)**

22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law. 24 And those who are Christ's have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. 25 If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.

**So what can you do to allow the Holy Spirit to work in your life and in the Church body?**

Acknowledge the Holy Spirit or look for Him throughout your day.

Pray and ask God to reveal where He is working and where you need to join Him in the work.

Read your Bible each day. Study your Bible.

Surrender your life. Start trusting God and believing what you have learned about Him in the Word.

## **Lord's Supper Service**

**(Matthew 26: 26 – 30)**

26 And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, blessed[a] and broke it, and gave it to the disciples and said, "Take, eat; this is My body."

27 Then He took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you. 28 For this is My blood of the new[b] covenant, which is shed for many for the remission of sins. 29 But I say to you, I will not drink of this fruit of the vine from now on until that day when I drink it new with you in My Father's kingdom."

30 And when they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.