

Weekly Devotions: THE REFINING FIRE OF TRIALS 5

To Soar like Eagles, God Needs to Push Us Out of our Nests.

Apparently for some species of eagles, the mother eagle would gently push each eaglet over the edge of the nest to teach them how to fly. After pushing an eaglet out, the mother eagle would immediately fly down, catches it on her back, then flies up and deposits it in the nest. This she would repeat until the eaglet can finally fly on its own. The mother eagle never lets the eaglets hit the rock and die. But she does let them fall so that they can learn to soar; something which they may not know they can do.

If the eaglets still do not venture forth beyond the nest even after learning how to fly, the mother eagle would begin to take the nest apart, stick by stick. This forces the eaglets out of the comfort of their nest and to start flying further and further away from it. The mother eagle probably knows that the eaglets will never venture forth to do what they are capable of unless the comfort of the nest is taken away from them.

In our faith journey, this is what our heavenly Father does through trials, to force us out of our comfort zone so that we can soar like an eagle. Like the eagle soaring in the heavens carried by the wind, we can do what is seemingly impossible empowered by His Holy Spirit.

Read Isaiah 40: 27-31

In Isaiah's prophetic vision, God's people in exile in Babylon were discouraged and lamenting that God had forgotten about them. In Isaiah 40, God told His people that in times of difficulty they should remember who He is; His sovereignty and power over nations & spiritual powers. Though they might not understand His ways, they should patiently wait on Him and He would give them strength. They would emerge from their trials with renewed strength and confidence, soaring majestically like the eagles in the heaven.

Questions to Ponder

1. Was there a time when God had pushed you out of your nest or comfort zone? How did you feel? Did you emerge a stronger person and discover new capabilities and strengths in yourself?
2. What was Israel's lament in their time of exile under the Babylonians (27)? What did God ask His people to remember about Him in their difficult times (28 & 29)? What was His promise to them (31)?
3. Which of these verses speak to you most? What does it mean for you to 'wait for the Lord' and to 'soar like an eagle'?