

Remnant Life Church
February 9, 2020
On Eagles Wings
Part 3
Learning to Fly
Phil 3:7-14

Review of the birds of the church

- Each bird has positive traits but also negative ones
- Not necessarily about identifying which single bird you are but being aware of the negative elements to avoid or remove them from your life

How our lives reflect or mirror that of the eagle

- This morning the first stages of the eagle's life
- Leading it to learn how to fly

- Every living thing grows and matures
 - People
 - Animals
 - Plants
- In the same way, every Christian, over time, should grow and mature
 - Some mature slowly, others rapidly
 - Most desire to grow while others will refuse
 - This is one of the characteristics of some of the birds we looked at the last 2 weeks that we want to avoid – those who refuse to change

The New Born Eagle

1. Safe and secure in the nest
 - a. Nests have been spotted as high as 10,000 feet
 - b. Eagles are territorial and will return to the same nest year after year
 - c. 6-10 feet across and can weigh in excess of 4000 pounds

 - d. The safety and security of the nest is vitally important – but the eagle will eventually leave
 - e. One of the main reasons many Christians never grow or mature is they refuse to leave the safety of their nest –
 - i. Church
 - ii. Immature beliefs
 - iii. Their place of woundedness

2. Hatching – the first lesson of the eagle's life
 - a. The chick's beak develops what might be described as a tooth.
 - b. A great danger is the intervention of man to “assist” the bird in breaking free
 - c. Through the process of cracking the egg, the eaglet learns perseverance and gains strength and stamina

- d. The Christian life also produces perseverance if we face, confront and deal with the difficult issues of our life
 - i. **James 1:2-4** - *Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters whenever you face trials of many kinds because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything*
 - ii. **Rom 5: 3-5** - *...we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope. And hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.*
- e. Difficulties, trials, and even suffering in the life of the Christian is not necessarily an indication of sin or the consequence of wrong action
 - i. That word "sufferings" in **Rom 5:3** is *Thlipsis* (*the-leap-sis*) – from the Greek meaning *pressure* but specifically anything that burdens the spirit of a person
 - ii. Pressure can mean any number of things to each person
 - 1. The importance of pressure is not whether it comes or not – it will
 - 2. The most important thing is how we handle it
- f. If denied this important time and task of working out of the pressure of that eggshell, the young eagle will not develop properly and will often die.
- g. So too we must work out of the times of pressure – and parents, allow your children to do the same!

3. Developing

- a. Within 9-10 weeks the chick has gained both size and strength
- b. BUT before he can fly he has to first learn to stand.
- c. This is also true in babies
 - i. Their first step is to creep
 - ii. Then to crawl
 - iii. Then to stand
 - iv. Then to move their legs while upright while holding on
 - v. Then to finally walk independently
- d. It is also true for Christians
 - i. Paul talks about giving the Christians in Corinth milk to digest spiritually (**I Cor 3:2**)
 - ii. So too young Christians need to be fed the basics
 - iii. But we must grow and learn how to handle the difficult things of the Christian life that are often the "meat" of learning

4. Examples of learning to walk before being ready to fly

- a. David – lion and the bear prepared him for Goliath
 - i. **I Samuel 17**
 - 1. Israelites and the Philistines at the Valley of Elah
 - 2. Their champion was 9'9" with armor of 125 lbs.
 - ii. Fierce animals but without the pressure of representing the entire nation of Israel

- iii. A loss to Goliath meant the loss of the kingdom
- b. Moses – leading sheep prepared him to lead the Israelites
 - i. **Exodus 3**
 - ii. 40 years in preparation
 - iii. In some ways the sheep were easier to deal with than people
- c. Joseph – oversaw Potiphar’s house and the prison prepared him to oversee all of Egypt.
 - i. **Genesis 39**
 - ii. Joseph began in Potiphar’s house as a slave
 - iii. Continued to learn and lead in prison accused unjustly
- d. What is God doing in your life right now that could very well be preparing you for something much greater?
- e. Be patient and not so anxious to leave situations until God directs you out

5. Watch – Learn – Copy

- a. The young eagle begins to jump, flap and bound around the nest.
- b. When bringing food the adults will hover above the nest slowly beating their massive wings instead of landing directly
- c. The purpose is for the baby eagle to see the function of the wings.
- d. Called the Song of Moses
 - i. He is retelling the story of God through the ages and His care for His people
 - ii. **Deut 32:11a**- *like an eagle that stirs up its nest and hovers over its young,*
- e. God’s care for you is not to keep you in the situation – it is to prepare you...

6. The First “Flight”

- a. The mother may entice the eaglet to the edge of the nest or gently nudge it to the rim.
- b. The eaglet does have a choice albeit a very limited one – it can go out of the nest willingly or it can go by force.
 - i. God will often instruct us in the same way
 - ii. We can learn willingly or by the force of His hand
- c. Until he actually flies and uses his wings the mother eagle will always intervene and save her chick from death.
 - i. The first flight usually is not all that successful
 - ii. **Deut 32:11b** - *that spreads its wings to catch them and carries them aloft*
- d. For the Christian, the wings we have been given is our faith.
 - i. **Matt 17:20** - *...Truly I tell you, if you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, ‘Move from here to there,’ and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you.”*

7. First Flight...again

- a. The mother eagle returns the eaglet to the nest.
- b. She often repeats the previous demonstration.
- c. Out he goes again and again and again....

- i. He has all the tools to fly but what he lacks is the knowledge and experience.
 - ii. As a Christian, you have everything you need to be victorious over the trials of your life
 - iii. Many times you are simply need to increase your knowledge and experience
 - d. Once the eagle reaches adulthood, it never stays in the nest.
 - i. This is not only true for parents raising their children
 - ii. It is true for the Christian as we must leave the things of our youth and “grow up”
 - iii. What does that mean?
 - 1. Admitting your fault
 - 2. Owning your sin
 - 3. Realizing your weakness and resisting pride
 - 4. **I John 1:9** – *If we confess our sins...*

8. Growing up

- a. The mother eagle will work with her chick as long as she needs to for him to succeed.
- b. God will never give up on us. Never!
- c. God confirms that to the people of Israel who have a desert journey to deal with through the lands of many hostile people
 - i. **Exodus 19:4** - *You yourselves have seen what I did to Egypt, and how I carried you on eagles' wings and brought you to myself.*
 - ii. God is there to guard and protect us but you still must learn to fly!