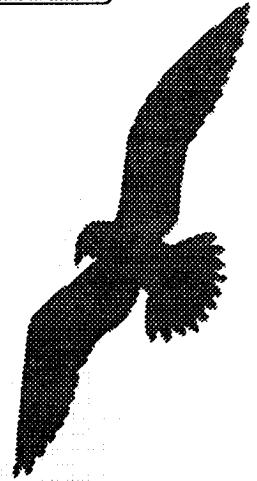


*"They shall
mount up...*

ON EAGLES' WINGS

*... with wings
as eagles."
Isaiah 40:31*



AERY NUGGETS

Our Great High Priest

Our great High priest is sitting
At God's right hand above,
**For us His hands uplifting,
In sympathy and love:**

Whilst here below, in weakness,
We onward speed our way;
In sorrow oft and sickness,
We sigh, and groan, and pray.

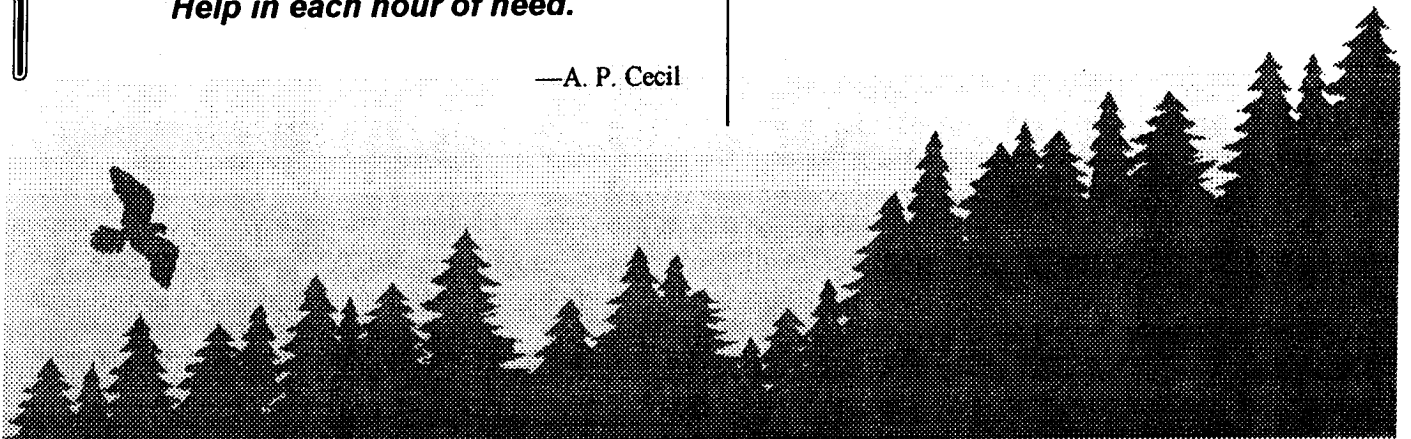
Through manifold temptation,
My soul holds on its course,
**Christ's mighty intercession
Alone is my resource;**

My gracious High Priest's pleadings,
Who on the cross did bleed,
Bring down God's grace and blessings,
Help in each hour of need.

—A. P. Cecil

"For we have **not** an High Priest which **cannot** be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, **that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in every time of need.** Hebrews 4:15,16.

As another has said so well, "What a comfort it is in the midst of the trials of the way to know that we have a sympathetic High Priest! Oftentimes we may go to one another with our trials and we meet each other with a certain measure of sympathy: - But how incomplete is the sympathy of the dearest friend that you may have! There are experiences, there is a sense of weakness, there are needs which you are either ashamed to speak of or realize the uselessness of telling the dearest earthly friend about. *How blessed it is to know that there is not an atom of*



experience we may have that is beneath the notice of our blessed High Priest! There is not a trial, so small that you cannot tell out in His sympathetic ear. He was tried as we are -- for that is what has given Him capacity to be a merciful High Priest!"

(Lectures On Hebrews by Mr. Samuel Ridout)

Our Lord Jesus Christ as our great High Priest is touched with the feelings of our infirmities or weaknesses.

How can our Lord so fully sympathize with us in all our trials and sorrows? Because He Himself experienced fully the sorrows, trials and temptations when He walked through this sinful world. He was in "all points tempted as we are, *yet without sin.*"

He knew what it was to be weary, hungry and thirsty. John 4:6,7; Luke 4:2; He was despised and rejected of men; a Man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief. Isaiah 53:3. He was betrayed by Judas and denied by Peter three times. In the garden of Gethsemane all of His disciples forsook Him and fled. Mark 14:50. He wept at the grave of Lazarus and again He wept over the city of Jerusalem. John 11:35. Luke 19:41.

As two verses of a hymn put it so beautifully:

"With joy we meditate the grace
Of God's High Priest above;
His heart is filled with tenderness,
His very Name is Love.

Touched with a sympathy within,
He knows our feeble frame:
He knows what sorest trials mean,
For He has felt the same."

Isaac Watts.

I would add a comment on the words, "yet without sin." The Lord Jesus never knew what it was to have a sinful thought or desire. The Bible tells us plainly that "In Him was no sin." 1 John 3:5. The temptations that our Lord experienced were all from without -- never from within. The Lord is "touched with" or "sympathizes with" our infirmities and not with our sins. When we sin we do not need sympathy. We need to judge our sin and confess it to the Lord. He will then forgive us. 1 John 1:9.

What then are we to do in times of trial, disappointment and heartache? We have a blessed invi-

tation to come boldly to the throne of grace. The word "boldly" suggests confidence, not fear. That throne for Christians is characterized by **grace. It is a throne of unmerited, undeserved favor.**

What will we find at this throne of grace? We will obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need. Mercy has been defined as that heartfelt compassion that comes into our circumstances of sorrow or trial. Grace gives us God's active favor, a power that will lift us above our circumstances.

An example of that grace is given us in 2 Corinthians 12: 7-9. Paul had prayed three times to have his thorn in the flesh removed. Instead of removing it the Lord said to him, "**My grace is sufficient for thee: for My strength is made perfect in weakness.**"

In the Old Testament we learn that the high priest had to have the names of the children of Israel upon his shoulders and upon his heart when he went into the holy place. Exodus 28;12, 29. How precious to realize that this is a picture to us of our Great High Priest. Our Lord Jesus bears our names upon His heart and upon His shoulders as He ever lives to intercede for us. Hebrews 7:25.

He knows, He loves, He cares,
Nothing this truth can dim
He gives the very best to those
Who leave the choice with Him.'

In the words of the closing verse of the hymn may we:

**"Then boldly let our faith address
The throne of grace and power;
We shall obtain delivering grace
In every needed hour."**

Waiting upon the Lord in this way we will surely "renew our strength and mount up with wings as eagles. We will run, and not be weary; and walk and not faint." Isaiah 40:31

In His love,

John D. McNeil

For address correction or free new name addition
please write to:

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