

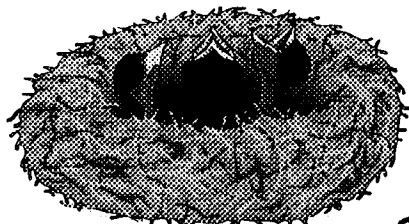
April 1999

"They shall  
mount up...

# ON EAGLES' WINGS

... with wings  
as eagles."

Isaiah 40:31



## AERO NUGGETS

Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous: nevertheless afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby." Hebrews 12:11

### My God, My Father! Blissful Name!

"My God, my Father! Blissful Name!  
I now may call Thee mine --  
May now with sweet assurance claim  
A portion so divine!

Whate'er Thy providence denies  
I calmly would resign,  
For Thou art just, and good, and wise:  
Oh, bend my will to Thine!

Whate'er Thy sacred will ordains,  
Oh, give me strength to bear!  
Teach me to know my Father reigns,  
And trust His tender care.

Thy sovereign ways are oft unknown  
To my weak, erring sight,  
Yet shall my soul adoring own  
That all Thy ways are right."

Anne Steele

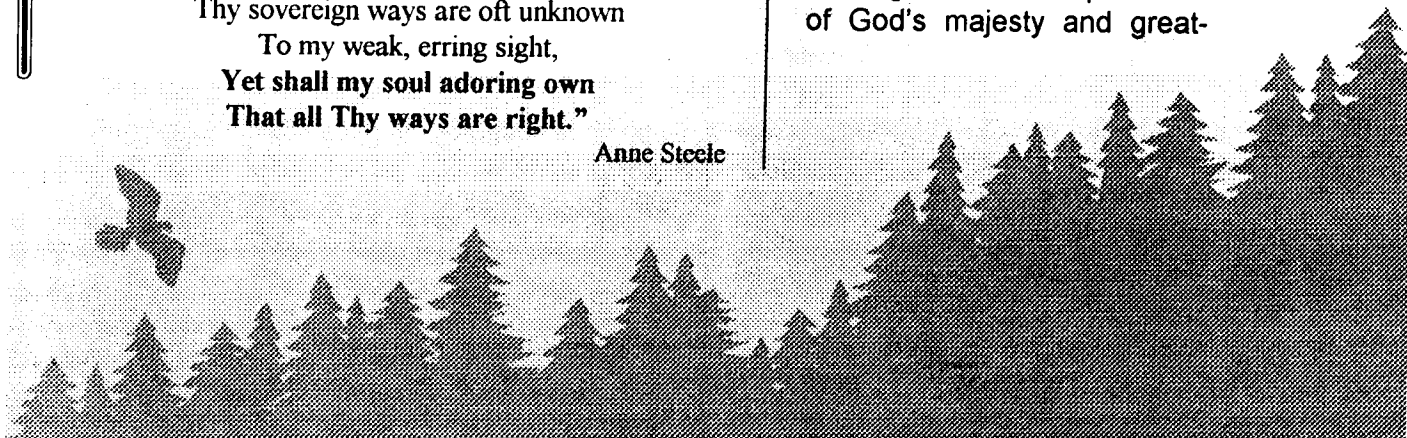
Dear Friends,

—The subject of chastening at the hand of God is sometimes equated to punishment by the Hand of the Almighty. But instead it needs to be equated to the love of a heavenly Father. The word "chasten" or "chastening" has the meaning of education, instruction or training. Some of this training does involve correction when it is necessary. Actually chastisement is a proof to us that God our Father loves us.

"For whom the Lord loveth He chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom He receiveth. Hebrews 12:6. As we consider three kinds of chastening we will be encouraged by seeing how God's love is behind every trial and difficulty we experience.

### Instructive Chastening.

This kind of chastening we can see in the severe trials that came into the life of Job. Though God spoke of him as a perfect and upright man who feared God yet Job had to learn his own nothingness in the presence of God's majesty and great-



ness. See Job chapters 1, 2 and 42. In the end we see "that the Lord is very pitiful, and of tender mercy." James 5:11.

### **Corrective Chastening.**

As a result of King Manasseh's idolatry God allowed him to be taken captive by the King of Assyria. In his deep affliction he repented and God restored him to his kingdom. See 2 Chronicles 33:1-20. Here again we see God's mercy and goodness behind the chastening.

### **Preventive Chastening.**

The Apostle Paul had the wonderful experience of being caught up to the third heaven and seeing things which were not lawful to utter. To prevent him from being exalted above measure the Lord gave him a thorn in the flesh, a messenger of Satan, to buffet him. See 2 Corinthians 12:1-10. From this experience Paul learned that God's grace was sufficient for every trial.

There are three possible ways that we may respond to our Father's chastening hand in our lives.

1. **We may despise it.** Hebrews 12:5. To despise it means that we take the trial lightly. We do not see that the Lord wants to teach us something. (Several years ago I entered the hospital for routine surgery. I did not look to the Lord for what He wanted to teach me through this surgery. After returning home I hemorrhaged and when the doctor came he rushed me to the hospital in his own car for emergency surgery. The doctor later told me that he almost lost me. It was then that I looked to the Lord and began to realize what the Lord was trying to teach me.)

2. **We may faint under it.** Hebrews 12:5. We do this when we take the attitude that this trial is too much for us. We complain and just want to give up. No doubt some of us have found ourselves in this condition.

3. **We are exercised by the trial.** Hebrews 12:11. When we are exercised by what the Lord has allowed us to go through we will find real blessing in the experience. We may have lost our job. Or we may have had a traffic accident or have been told by the doctor that we need to have surgery. It may be the sudden loss of a loved one or a friend that may have betrayed our trust in them. No matter what form the trial takes we need to ask ourselves the question: "What is the Lord trying to teach me through this experience?" As we go through the trial with this attitude we will be drawn closer to Him and realize His strength day by day. We will even-

tually learn lessons from the trial that will "yield the peaceable fruit of righteousness."

This truth of trials being a blessing is illustrated by the following story.

A.B. Cooper said that one autumn day he went to a chrysanthemum show and observed some wonderful blooms. He inquired of a gardener, "How in the world do you manage to produce such marvelous flowers?"

"Well, sir, we concentrate all the strength of the plant in one or two blooms. If we would allow it to bear all the flowers it could, none would be worth showing. If you want a prize specimen, you must be content with a single chrysanthemum instead of a score."

For the same reason, God sends trials to prune from our lives the useless blooms of self, popularity, and comfort, so that He may perfect in us one exquisite white blossom of holiness.

Warren Wiersbe noted that when God permits His children to go through the furnace, He keeps his eye on the clock and His hand on the thermostat.

In His wonderful love,

*John D. McNeil*

Tests/Of Faith/3608

Topic: Adversity

Subtopic:

Index: 2902

Date: 7/1996.16

Title: The Use of Broken Things

God uses broken things. It takes broken soil to produce a crop, broken clouds to give rain, broken grain to give bread, broken bread to give strength.

It is the broken alabaster box that gives forth perfume--it is Peter, weeping bitterly, who returns to greater power than ever.

—Vance Havner

—James S. Hewett, Illustrations Unlimited (Wheaton: Tyndale House Publishers, Inc, 1988) p. 15.

Other Topic/Subtopic/Index:

Submission/To Divine Will/3234

Afflictions/Refining Influence of/496

For address correction or free new name addition, write to  
Leslie L. Winters