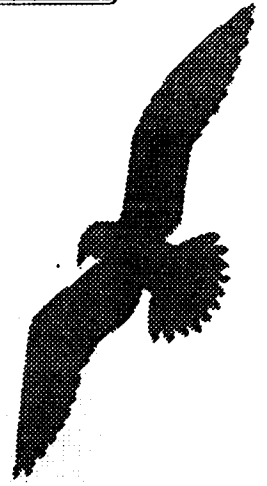


*"They shall
mount up...*

ON EAGLES' WINGS

*... with wings
as eagles."*

Isaiah 40:31



AERY NUGGETS

Dear **Poor** and **Needy** Ones,

Due to our pride and self esteem, I suppose none of us like to be characterized as **poor** and **needy**

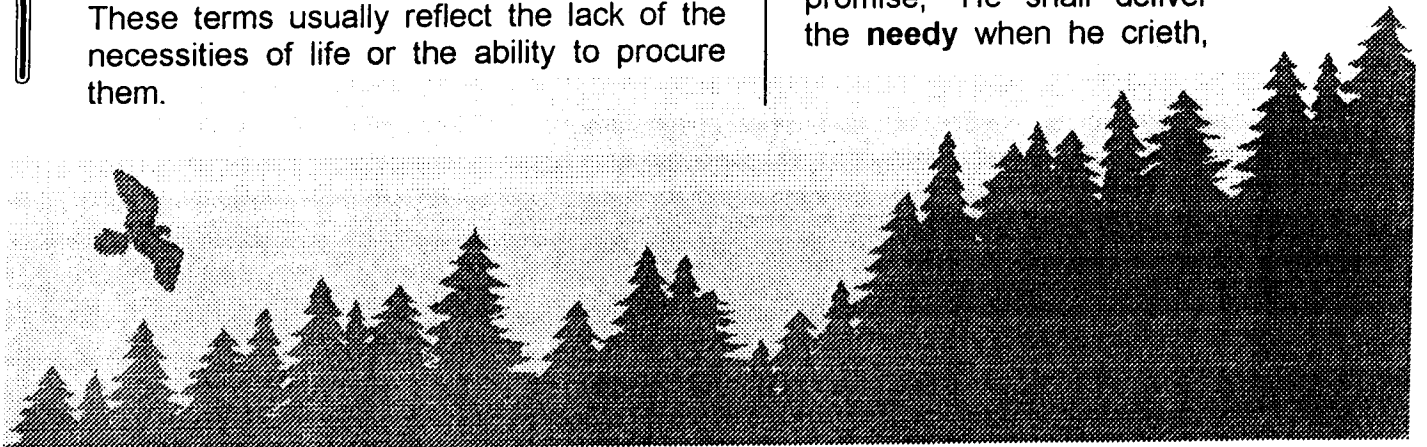
Shortly after the formation of Israel as a free nation, God took notice of this condition amongst His people and established an order to be carried out, saying, "For the **poor** shall never cease out of the land: therefore I command thee, saying, Thou shalt open thy hand wide unto thy brother, to thy **poor**, and to thy **needy**, in thy land" (Duet. 15:11).

What is it to be **poor** and **needy**? A simple dictionary definition gives **poor** as: *lacking material possessions*, while **needy** as: *being in want, dire need or destitute*. These terms usually reflect the lack of the necessities of life or the ability to procure them.

While the preceding words might give a definition in words of "What it is to be **poor** and **needy**", only those who are in that condition or circumstance can truly describe it to others. The frustration, the envy of the "Haves", the worry over unmet needs, the stigma of and reluctance over the need to be dependent on others that enter into the actual definition. Added to all these is the apparent hopelessness for a change many feel.

True, there are organizations and even departments of our government to minister to humanitarian needs, but so often partiality or minimal resources limit either the amount of help or the number of recipients to receive help. How those who are neglected or passed over feel the need of an ombudsman, or one who can intercede for them in their need and distress.

Good news! for those, who in their extremity, will call upon the Lord in sincerity. The Scriptures promise, "He shall deliver the **needy** when he crieth,



the **poor** also, and him that hath no helper” (Ps. 72:12).

Introducing a Psalm of earnest entreaty for God’s help, we read the plea, “Bow down thine ear, O Lord, hear me: for I am poor and needy”. Later on, “In the day of my trouble I will call upon thee: for thou wilt answer me”. (Ps. 86:1,7)

It is nice to have things promised to us, but what about assurances? Here are a couple. “But I am **poor and needy**; yet the Lord thinketh upon me.” (Ps. 40:1) No partiality! Again, “This **poor** man cried, and the Lord heard him, and saved him out of all his troubles.” (Ps.34:6)

Giving these verses aren’t meant to imply that those who call upon the Lord will be ushered on to easy street or that all our trials will be over, for our practical faith may be tested time and time again. As each test arises, let us manifest faith by putting ourselves in His hand and calling upon Him for help.

Financial institutions are prone to advertise how much capital they have, when seeking to establish OUR confidence in their ability to meet OUR needs. God does too, and through His servant Paul, assured us thus, “But my God shall supply all your needs according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.” (Phil. 4:19)

Notice, He doesn’t promise an over abundance, but to meet NEEDS, though in His rich grace some may receive much more than they need, while the record is given in Hebrews 11:37, that there were “heroes of faith”, “Who wandered about in sheepskins and goat skins; being destitute, afflicted tormented.

Now, back to the Lord’s people who have been blessed abundantly above their needs. God has a purpose and responsibility for them in this. James lays it out pretty plain in the following words, “If a brother or sister be naked, and destitute of daily food, and one of you say unto them, Depart in peace, be ye warmed and filled; notwithstanding ye give them not those things which are needful to the body; what doth it profit? (Jas. 2:15,16)

Going by the expression, “As God hath prospered him.” (I Cor. 16:2) in directing how

much to put in the collection intimates that a reckoning needs to be made to determine how much our income exceeds our expenses and devote a reasonable portion for the needs of the poor and needy.

To guard against the “Haves” despising the “Have Nots”, James also writes, “Harken my beloved brethren, Hath not God chosen the poor of this world rich in faith, and heirs of the kingdom which he hath promised to them that love him?” (Jas. 2:5).

Meager resources do not necessarily hinder one who is rich in faith from being a blessing to others, for the Apostle Paul could write of himself as a servant of God, “As sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing all things.” (2 Cor. 6:10)

Giving is not to be a one sided exercise, for when circumstances are reversed then recipients are to become the givers, as we read in 2 Cor, 8:13,15. “For I mean not that other men be eased, and ye burdened: But by an equality, that now at this time your abundance may be a supply for their want, that their abundance also may be a supply for your want:: that there may be equality: As it is written, He that had gathered much had nothing over; and he that had gathered little had no lack.” L.L.W.

True Discipleship

“Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart.”—Matt. 11:29

“T’was sitting at His feet she heard,
And from His lips drank in His word,
Until her very soul was stirred—
For Jesus.

“T’was at His blessed feet she fell,
When crushed with grief she could not tell—
Save to the heart she knew so well
Of Jesus.

And when in service, still her place
Was at His feet in lowly grace,
To do what time shall ne’er efface,
For Jesus.

C.T.

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