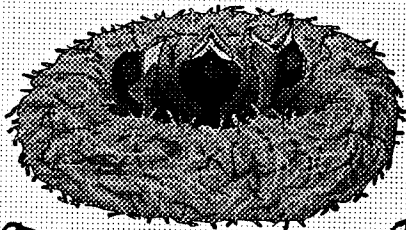
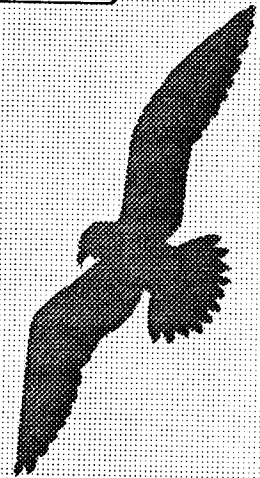


*'They shall
mount up...*

ON EAGLES' WINGS

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



AERY NUGGETS

LIVING EPISTLES

(2 Cor. 3:3)

Is my life an epistle of Christ
In my speech, my walk, and my ways?
As with others I meet and converse,
Does my life testify to His praise?

As the moon and the stars in the sky
Reflect rays of light from the sun,
Does my life in some measure reflect
The love of the crucified One?

God forbid that my letter of life
Should to any a stumbling block be;
But grant that Thine own blessed Son
May be seen—"Christ living in me."

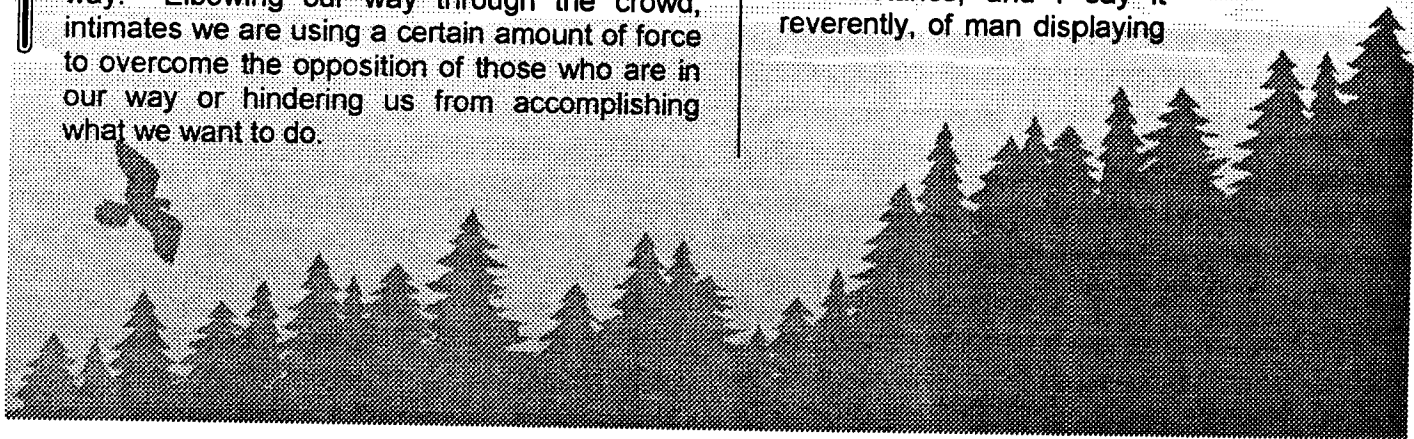
Dear Elbow Rubbers,

Some one chose this expression to convey the thought of coming in close contact with others, and not necessarily in a gentle or loving way. Elbowing our way through the crowd, intimates we are using a certain amount of force to overcome the opposition of those who are in our way or hindering us from accomplishing what we want to do.

Today, life styles put us in the position of rubbing elbows in various ways and with a variety of people, such as in the grocery store checkout lane, in the schools and on school busses, in the workplaces, entertainment centers, and, gatherings of the Lord's people.

Having made man in His image, "The Lord God said, It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him." (Genesis 2:18). Thus was established the closest relationship on earth, and one which brought about elbow rubbing. Though husbands are enjoined to, "Love your wives," and for the wife, "See that she reverence her husband." (Ephesians 5:25&33), in times of estranging stress, the flaws in the mate, uncovered by familiarity, can cause unpleasant relationships if one does not display the spirit of *Christ*. "Charity shall cover the multitude of sins" (1 Peter 4:8).

Elbow rubbing between the first two brothers not only ended in murder, but also set the stage for man to depart from the presence of the Lord. "Cain went out from the presence of the Lord" (Genesis 4:16). This was the first instance, and I say it reverently, of man displaying



a reluctance of rubbing elbows with his Creator.

Cain was the first one to inherit the sin nature, or as it is often referred to, the old nature, in distinction from the new nature which one receives when trusting in Jesus Christ as their Saviour and are born again, or saved. This sin nature is that force which instigates man to commit sins.

According to the Authorized Version of the Bible, "Sin is the transgression of the law" (I John 3:4), but a better rendering defines sin as "lawlessness", refusal to be controlled by God.

This spirit of lawlessness, which erupted with Cain and has continued on down to you and I, prompts man to "do his own thing," regardless of its effect on others, and to resent and resist being "fenced in" by rules and regulations.

Does listening to a dripping water faucet or someone rocking in a squeaking chair aggravate you? How about the sound of finger nails being filed or having to repeat several times your words, which haven't been understood. Family situations expose us to some of these things, and how do we handle them? While, "charity suffereth long," it also, "is kind." (I Corinthians 13:4) so, on the one hand I will, with the Lord's support, seek to graciously bear with the irritant, while on the other hand, when ever possible, seek to refrain from annoying someone else. A contentious nature is like, "a continual dropping on a very rainy day" (Proverbs 27:15).

Rubbing elbows in general with those around us does not necessarily expose us to annoyance or aggravation, but it can have an effect upon our spiritual life. How easily the ways, words, likes and dislikes of those around are picked up, and if these are from people of the world, they can infect us, much as if we were exposed to some illness. Though Moses lived many years ago, we find he had to make a decision as to who he was going to rub elbows with, "choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season" (Hebrews 11:25).

Having become part of the family of God through new birth, we are brought in contact with yet another class of people with whom to rub elbows. Saints by redemption - *not perfection*, and we may find some, and display some of the same faults as we find in worldlings. That difficulties may arise, we find in Paul's exhortation in Philippians 4:2, "I beseech Euodias, and Syntche, that they be of the same mind in the Lord." Our faith is also to have in it "brotherly kindness" (2 Peter 1:7).

The preceding paragraphs set before us briefly some of the effects of close contact with others. Now, I'd like to consider several occasions in our Lord's life on earth, when He went amongst the people. He was not opposed to rubbing elbows with

the common people, for we read, "He came unto his own, and his own received him not" (John 1:11). Closeness with people was His desire, as evidenced by His words, "Come unto me" (Matthew 11:28).

One day in Nazareth, after the Lord's reading from the Book of Isaiah, and making an application with gracious words, the people in the synagogue were filled with wrath, "and rose up, and thrust him out of the city, and led him unto the brow of the hill whereon their city was built, that they might cast him down headlong." Do we read of a struggle or display of power to secure deliverance? No. Only that, "He passing through the midst of them went his way" (Luke 4:29,30).

Not all of the Lord's elbow rubbing' was with crowds. On one occasion, after a momentous lake cruise, He stepped ashore to be met by one needy person indwelt by many devils. Far from being repulsed by the maniac's condition, the Lord met the man's need to the point that the local citizens, "Went out to see what was done; and came to Jesus, and found the man out of whom the devils were departed, sitting at the feet of Jesus, clothed and in his right mind." (Luke 8:22-35).

Most of us dislike being in crowds because of the push and shove, but none of these things deterred our gracious Saviour from what He had to do. On an errand of mercy to the daughter of Jairus He was thronged by many people in so much that it was called a press. Suddenly, one of the many hands which must have touched Him attracted His attention and He voiced that wonderful question, "Who touched my clothes," and then the reward of faith, "Daughter, thy faith hath made thee whole" (Mark 5:21 - 34).

Wasn't it wonderful that He didn't walk through this scene with a, "Don't Touch Me" attitude? Has He felt your touch yet?

Happy elbow rubbing,

Leslie L. Winters

LOVE MANIFESTED PRACTICALLY

Love is the filling from one's own another's cup.

Love is the daily laying down and taking up.

A choosing of the stony path through each new day,
That other feet may tread at ease the smoother way.

Love is not blind, but looks ahead through other eyes
And asks not: "Must I give?" but "May I sacrifice?"
Love hides its griefs that other hearts and lips may sing
And burdened walks that others' lives may buoyant wing.

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Leslie L. Winters or Christine Albury