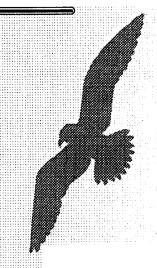
rall up... EAGLES' WINGS EAGLES' ... with wings "They shall mount up...

as eagles." Isaiah 40:31





"God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear, though the earth be removed, and thought the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea. The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge. Selah." Psalm 46:1.2.11.

O Saviour, Whose Mercy

O Saviour, whose mercy, so faithful in kindness, Has chastened my wand'rings, and guided my way, Adored be the Pow'r that illumined my blindness And wean'd me from phantoms that smiled to betray.

I thought that the course of the pilgrim to heaven Was bright as the sun and as glad as the morn: Thou showedst the path, It was dark and uneven, All rugged with rock, and tangled with thorn!

Subdued and instructed through grace, in contrition Earth-hopes and earth-longings I fain would resign: O give me the heart that can wait in submission, Nor know of a wish or a pleasure not Thine!

A refuge there is, free from sin and from sorrow-But hence, in a region faith only has trod; A morn without clouds—but it cometh tomorrow; A rest—but it waits in the presence of God Anon.

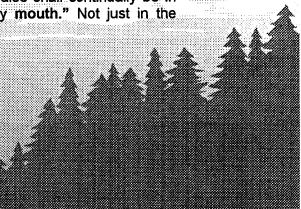
Dear Friends,

I would like to call the attention of our readers to a Psalm of David that has often been. and is today a great encouragement to me. Psalm 34 was written shortly after he had briefly failed in his walk with the Lord. Fearing that King Saul would find him and kill him, he fled to the land of the Philistines. He sought refuge there. but then he began to fear that the king of the Philistines would kill him. To escape he then acted as a crazy person causing the Philistine king to dismiss him from his presence. See 1 Samuel 21:10-13. David then found a refuge in the cave of Adullam.

David was restored to the Lord and he then wrote this beautiful Psalm. He begins with these words: "I will bless the LORD at all times: His praise shall continually be in my mouth:. To bless the Lord is to praise Him and to glorify Him. Notice the words: "At all times." That means in

every situation, under every circumstance, before, in and after trials, in bright days of joy and through dark nights of fear and sorrow. "His praise shall continually be in my mouth." Not just in the





heart. How good it is when we can sing praises to the Lord while we are going through trying times.

Not only will David praise the Lord but he also is going to make his boast in the Lord. He wants to magnify the Lord and exalt His Name. That was the Apostle Paul's desire also. He wrote from a prison "so now also Christ shall be magnified in my body, whether it be by life, or by death." Phil.1:20. Mary also said: "My soul doth magnify the Lord." How do we magnify the Lord? Only by the way we live and by what we say and how we react to problems and difficulties. The apostle Paul said, "For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain." Phil. 1:21. May that be our desire and our prayer for this year of 2005.

In verse 4 David writes: "I sought the Lord and He delivered me from all my fears." Do you, dear reader, have any fears? David certainly did and I believe that most of us, including myself, have experienced fears at one time or another. Like David experienced we too can be delivered from all fear. One verse that has always been a great comfort to me and many others is found in Isaiah 41:13. There the Lord says to us: "For I, the Lord thy God will hold thy right hand, saying unto thee "Fear not; I will help thee." If God is going to hold my right hand why should I be afraid? Again David writes: "This poor man cried and the Lord heard him and delivered him out of all his troubles." Notice: it is not from all his troubles but out of them. The Lord Jesus also reminded us that "in the world ye shall have tribulation; but be of good cheer I have overcome the world." John 16:33. David continues to write: "O taste and see that the Lord is good; blessed is the man that trusts in Him." In verse 9 and 10 we are reminded that our God will supply our every need. This reminds us of what the apostle Paul wrote while he was in prison, "But my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus." Phil. 4:19. (I remember my parents saying, "Not our greed but our need) In verse 11 we are reminded of the need of instruction in the fear of the Lord, "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom." Psalm 111:10. This is a godly fear that motivates us to do what is pleasing in His sight. In verse 12-14 we find the pathway for blessing in our lives. We are to keep our tongue from evil and our lips from speaking deceitfully. Our prayer should be: "Set a watch, O Lord, before my mouth; keep the door of my lips." Psalm 141:3. In this pathway of blessing we are told to depart from evil; and do good; seek peace and pursue it."

In verses 15-20 we are reminded that the Lord's eyes are always upon us and that His ears are always upon us open to hear our cries. In verse 17 we are assured for the second time in this psalm that the Lord will deliver us out of all our troubles.

Then we read these wonderful words: "The Lord is near unto them that are of a broken heart; and saves such as be of a contrite spirit." How good it is to know that the Lord will draw near to us when we pass through deep waters and the trials of the way seem more than we can bear. David writes in Psalm 51 these words. ""The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit: a broken and contrite heart. O God Thou wilt not despise." I believe that all of us would agree that it is when we go through various trials in our lives that we can experience in a wonderful way the reality of the Lord's presence with us. "Who passing through the valley of Baca make it a well." The valley of Baca is a place of sorrow and humiliation, but one of blessing also. With some of us this valley may be the loss of that which is the nearest to our hearts, or the thwarting of the will-something that will humble us; but it is a place of blessing. We get more refreshing from the painful than the pleasant things. The refreshment and the blessing come from that which has pained us, humbled us, emptied us of self." JND

May the Lord use the words of this beautiful Psalm to encourage and strengthen each of us as we wait for the coming of the Lord Jesus.

In His wonderful love,

John D. McNeil

How to be rid of the burden of sin, indwelling sin? The answer is that God condemned sin in Him who was sent in the likeness of flesh of sin; but as a sacrifice for sin. To faith sin is as completely annulled as our sins---both righteously, but in grace, both by Him who for both suffered at God's hand that we might be delivered and know our deliverance now by the faith of Jesus Christ our Lord.

The sacrifice of Christ is the ground of our emancipation by the Spirit of life from the law of sin and death, as it is in order to a holy walk. Its infinite blessing is for us in both standing and walk. The law dealt with the old nature, the flesh, exposing its sinful character, but weak through it. The Spirit strengthens the new nature; and thus the believer, feeding on the word, walks accordingly, loving God and his neighbor.

Those who are in Christ walk according to the Spirit. If they were after flesh, the mind and affection would be on the things of the flesh. Source, character, and conduct go together.: "that which is born of the flesh is flesh"---"Whosoever drinketh of this water shall thirst again. "That which is born of the Spirit is spirit."--"but whosoever drinketh of the water that I [Christ] shall give him shall never thirst: but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water, springing up into everlasting life." —William Kelly

For address correction or free new name addition,

write to:

Leslie L. Winters

or

Christine Albury