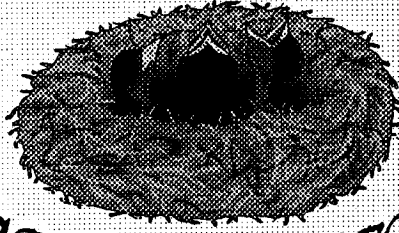
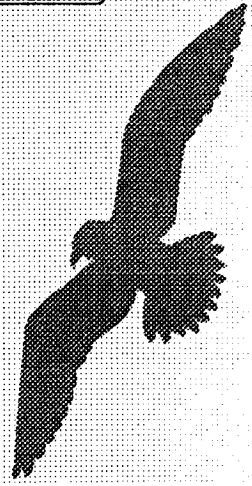


*"They shall
mount up...*

ON EAGLES' WINGS

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



AERY NUGGETS

"Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death I will fear no evil: for Thou art with me; Thy rod and Thy staff they comfort me." Psalm 23:4.

His Eye Is On The Sparrow

Why should I feel discouraged? Why should the shadows come?

Why should my heart be lonely And long for heaven and home

When Jesus is my portion? My constant friend is He:
**His eye is on the sparrow, and I know and I know He watches me,
His eye is on the sparrow, and I know and I know He watches me.**

Whenever I am tempted, whenever clouds arise,
When song gives place to sighing, When hope within me dies,

**I draw the closer to Him, from care He sets me free,
His eye is on the sparrow, and I know and I know He watches me,
His eye is on the sparrow, and I know and I know He watches me.**

—Charles Gabriel

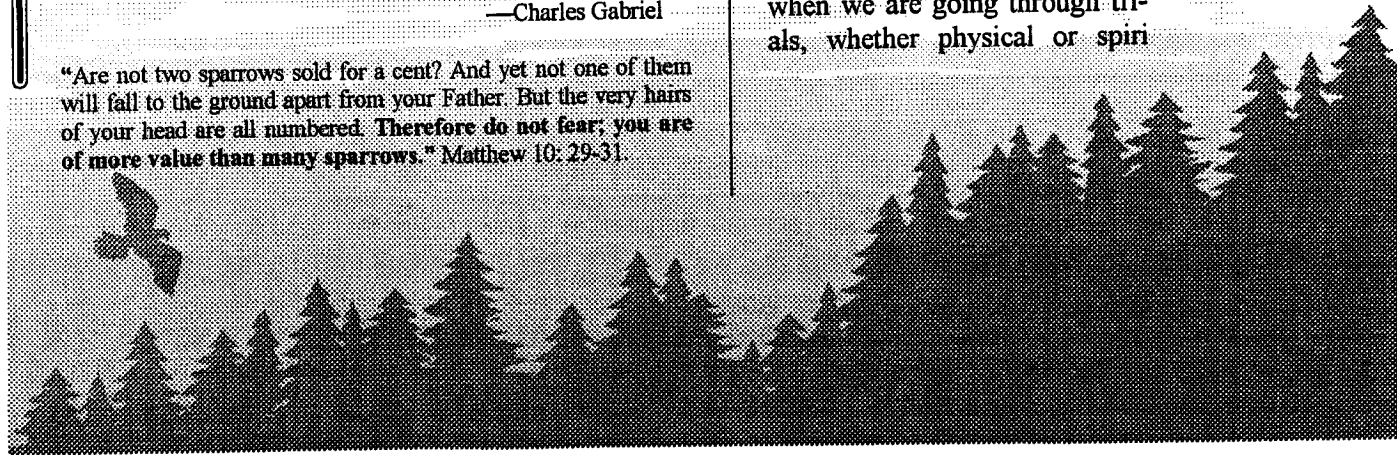
"Are not two sparrows sold for a cent? And yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. But the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Therefore do not fear; you are of more value than many sparrows." Matthew 10: 29-31.

Dear Friends,

As I lay awake the other morning my attention was drawn to the little word "comfort" and the great need we have today of being comforted. So much of what we hear on the radio or read and see either in the newspaper or on the TV would tend to discourage us. We need so much the same comfort which King David experienced as we walk through the same valley of the shadow death.

The word "comfort" is defined in the dictionary as "strengthening aid" or "assistance" or "encouragement." In the Bible it usually has the same meanings. David wrote of God's rod and staff as a comfort to Him. The rod would remind us of our need to be corrected when we go astray. The staff would remind us of His Word which is His support of us through this valley of death. How comforting it is to know that our Great Shepherd has His eye upon us at all times.

David also wrote "This is my comfort in my affliction: for Thy Word has quickened or revived me." Psalm 119: 50. We, too, can find comfort and strength through God's Word when we are going through trials, whether physical or spiri



tual. A special verse like Isaiah 41:13 ("For I the Lord thy God will hold thy right hand saying unto thee: Fear not: I will help thee.") will help us go through disappointments and trials.

I'm sure that most of us have witnessed a mother comforting her child who has been hurt or has suffered the loss of something very precious to them. The Lord wants to be like a mother to each one of us. He has said: "As one whom his mother comforts, so will I comfort you." Isaiah 66:13. Although these promises were initially made to Israel they are true for us today because "Jesus Christ is the Same, yesterday, and today and forever". Hebrews 13:8.

We are reminded in Romans 15:4 that the scriptures themselves are a source of comfort and encouragement to us. How good then that we start each day by reading and meditating upon the scriptures, God's Holy Word. "Thy Word have I hid in my heart that I might not sin against Thee." Psalm 119:11. As we do that we will be comforted and strengthened through good days and through hard days.

We also learn from Philippians chapter 2 verses 1 through 11 that we can experience real joy or comfort when we have the mind of Christ Jesus. What was the mind of Christ? It was obedience to God, His Father first, others next and Himself last. Another has described it as a "selfless mind, a sacrificial mind and a serving mind." He was higher than all but He humbled Himself and took upon Himself the form of a servant. He was meek and lowly in heart. If we would experience comfort in our lives we, too, must put the Lord first, others next and ourselves last. This is the pathway to real joy and blessing in our lives. We will be encouraged and strengthened in our walk with the Lord.

It is easy to be so occupied with our own needs and problems that we forget the need of others. If we think of Christ first, others next and ourselves last we will find that comfort in Christ and consolation of love.

As we experience the comfort or encouragement of the Lord we will be able to encourage others. Tychicus was sent by Paul to comfort the Christians at Ephesus and Colosse. Ephesians 6:21,22. Colossians 4:7,8. We are reminded to comfort one and edify one another 1 Thesalonians 5:10. How often a short visit to a fellow believer will be a means of encouragement to one who has been sick or discouraged.

I would add another wonderful truth that cannot but help to comfort and encourage us as we face each new day with it's challenges, hopes and, yes, fears.

"For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trumpet of God; and the dead in Christ shall rise first. Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the

air: and thus we shall always be with the Lord. Therefore comfort one another with these words." 1 Thesalonians 4:15-18. NAV.

He is coming, coming for us;
Soon we'll see His light afar,
On the dark horizon rising,
As the **Bright and Morning Star**,
Cheering every waking watcher,
As the star whose kindly ray
Heralds the approaching morning
Just before the break of day.
Oh! What joy as night hangs round us
'Tis to think of morning's ray;
Sweet to know He's coming for us,
Just before the break of day"

He is coming as the Bridegroom,
Coming to unfold at last
The great secret of His purpose,
Mystery of ages past;
And the Bride, to her is granted
In His beauty now to shine,
As in rapture she exclaimeth,
"I am His, and He is mine."
Oh! what joy that marriage union,
Mystery of love divine;
Sweet to sing in all its fullness,
"I am His, and He is mine."

In His wonderful love,

John D. McNeil

P.S. Be of good courage. He will never leave Thee nor forsake thee. We can boldly say, "The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me." Hebrews 13:6.

"Soon Thou wilt come again,
Jesus, our Lord!
We shall be happy then,
Jesus, our Lord!
Then we Thy face shall see,
Then we shall like Thee be,
Then evermore with Thee,
Jesus, our Lord!"

For address correction or free new name addition,

write to:
Leslie L. Winters or Christine Alburv