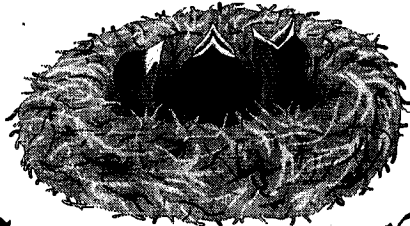


*"They shall
mount up...*

ON EAGLES' WINGS

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



AERY NUGGETS

HE BIDS US COME

Little Flock 171

He bids us come; His voice we know,
And boldly on the waters go
To Him our God and Lord;
We walk on life's tempestuous sea,
For He who died to set us free
Hath called us with His word

Secure, on boisterous waves we tread,
Nor all the billows round us dread,
While on the Lord we look;
The tempter drives his vortex round,
We pass it as on solid ground;
The wave is firm as rock

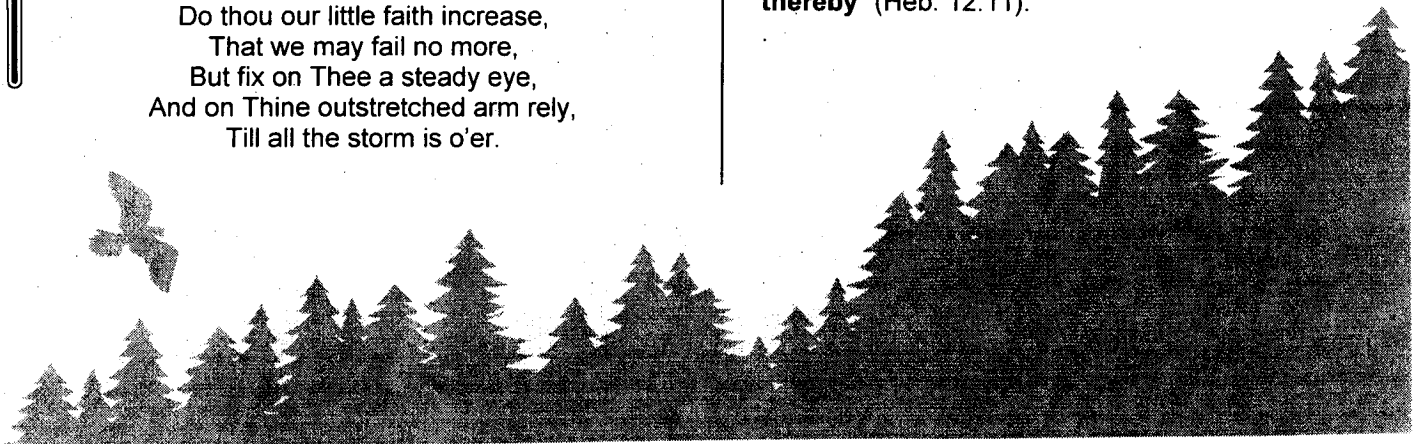
But if from Him we turn the eye,
We see the raging floods run high,
Our hearts are full of fear;
Our foes so strong, our flesh so frail,
Reason and unbelief prevail,
Forgetting He is near.

Lord! We our unbelief confess,
Do thou our little faith increase,
That we may fail no more,
But fix on Thee a steady eye,
And on Thine outstretched arm rely,
Till all the storm is o'er.

Dear Being Tried and Tested One,

Recently a young brother in our assembly passed on an exhortation which I thought was very much needed by us all. It was- "**Don't waste your trials!**" Well we do have a trial now and then, don't we, and they come in many sizes and shapes, being of a long or short duration, and painful or annoying, but how do we waste them? As intimated, and according to 1 Cor. 10 13 we all suffer trials. "There hath no temptation (trial) taken you but such as is common to man." We're not in for a picnic either, for, "No chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous but grievous" (Heb. 12:11).

Do we seek to brush off these trials and difficulties by saying to ourselves, "Nothing is happening to me that doesn't happen to others"; "It is just my luck"; or, "I'll just have to grin and bear it, I have strong shoulders". How many times we do this instead of raising an honest question, "What can I learn from this?" This is really wasting our trial, when not seeking to let God teach us the lessons that He intends, through our trials. Though the various trials which beset us may be grievous, "Nevertheless afterwards it yielded the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are **exercised thereby**" (Heb. 12:11).



Trials are one form of God's lesson book, whereby we get some "hands on" training, perfecting the image of our Lord Jesus in us, through our Father's loving chastening. Ofttimes we are prone to equate trials as punishment for something we have done in the past, and though scripture does say, "Whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap" (Gal. 6:7), nevertheless, our God is not vindictive, but in such cases in dealing with His own, only does that which is necessary to bring about correction in our walk.

To show the benefiting effect of trials, James 1:2 & 3 calls for us to appreciate them with the words, "My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptation (testings); **knowing this**, that the trying of your faith worketh patience." So faith must be in exercise to derive the good from trials. Coupled with what God is presently working in us, we also are a finished work, as seen in the words, "For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them" (Eph. 2:10).

Now I would like to take you into our local hospital's physical therapy department and acquaint you with some of the mechanical trials I am subjected to, with the object of strengthening my body __not to gain your sympathy, but to find some spiritual applications. First, we come to the machine combining coordinated levers and pedals to test the strength and endurance of your legs and arms, giving the appearance of one in flight, and thinking of this might make the verse, "Flee also youthful lusts: but follow righteousness, faith, charity, peace, with them that call on the Lord out of a pure heart" (2 Tim.2:22), come to mind; also, "Let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us" (Heb.12:17); "Thou therefore endure hardness as a good soldier of Jesus Christ" (2Tim.2:3).

From *fleeing* we go to *bending over backward*, reminding us of the exhortation ending with the words, "to help one another". This apparatus has an arm which, while seated, you lean backward against, and in so doing, lifts a selected weight. My progress so far is 60 pounds for 30 bends. Doesn't this bring to mind the exhortation, "Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ" (Gal.6:2), or, "We then that are strong ought to bear the infirmities of the weak, and not to please ourselves" (Rom.15:1)? Now lets turn around on the seat, facing the opposite direction (this is done 30x lifting 30 lbs.), bending forward against the arm.. This activity seems to suggest the thought of taking a place of humility before God, and men, which 1 Pet.5:5 sets before us in the exhortation, "Yea, all of you be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble.", following through with the Apostle Paul's suggestion, "Why do ye not rather take wrong? why do ye not suffer yourselves to be defrauded?" (1 Cor.6:7). What better way to, "Present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service" (Rom.12:1).

Free standing is something I've lost the ability to do, so to try and develop this once again, am standing be-

tween two rails with my hands free. Today, for the first time, made it to two minutes by the dint of perseverance, and no touching! In our Christian walk there are many references to *standing* __"Watch ye, stand fast in the faith, quit you like men, be strong" (1Cor.16:13); "Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled with the yoke of bondage" (Gal.5:1); "Stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel" (Phil.1:27); "Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth" (Eph.6:14).

With our standing having been challenged, let's try another position. You no doubt are acquainted with the expression, "On the ball!", giving the thought that one is alert or aware of present happenings, so, let's take our seat 'on the ball' and see if we can withstand efforts to unseat us. My wife, my personal 'acting' therapist, not only gives me gentle nudges in different directions, but without warning, will follow up a tentative nudge with a more forceful one in another direction. Without meaning any likening of my dear one, may this not remind us of the instruction, "Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil" (Eph. 6:11). Likewise, "Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good" (Rom.12:21); "Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall" (1Cor.10:12).

Balls make precarious seating for the unwary and provide a typical example of how the enemy of our souls will come in with many kinds of distractions to cause us to dishonor our Lord or mar our testimony. Let us look beyond the trials of earth and rejoice that a merciful God, "Hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus" (Eph.2:6). T. Binney marveled at the holiness required to stand in the presence of God.

Eternal light! Eternal Light!
How pure the soul must be
When, placed within thy searching sight,
It shrinks not, but with calm delight
Can live, and look on Thee.

Our hearts overflow with worship when we realize that we have that necessary purity imputed to us through faith in the Lord Jesus. I trust the preceding thoughts will stimulate you to view your trials in a profitable light.

Your companion in trials,

Leslie L. Winters

For address correction or free new name addition,

write to:
Leslie L. Winters or Christine Albury