

FEBRUARY 2019 PREACHING MANUAL

THEME: PREVAILING STRENGTH (CONT'D)

February 3: Prevailing strength through the wisdom of God

February 10: Prevailing strength through the joy of the Lord

February 17: Prevailing strength for couples when the going gets tough or rough

Youth: Prevailing over peer pressures

February 24: Prevailing strength for all round success through waiting on God. (You can mount up like eagles)

Sunday, 03 February, 2019.

Dear pastor/minister,

We implore you by the mercies of God to prayerfully deliver this message.

Use this as a guide. Study the outline thoroughly in advance, meditate on the points and let the message become part of you that you may deliver it from the spirit and the head. You can make relevant additions and illustrations.

May God bless your labours with abiding fruits.

PREVAILING STRENGTH THROUGH THE WISDOM OF GOD

Texts: 1 Samuel 2:9; Ecclesiastes 9:11; 1 Samuel 17:47

The above scriptures tell us certain things. That, winning is not synonymous with physical strength. Promotion does not necessarily go to those that are worthy. That, natural gifts by themselves are not enough to handle the battles of life. Natural abilities or talents are not enough for a successful life. They are telling us that skill and intelligence do not necessarily give progress; the swiftest and the strongest do not necessarily end up the best in life. There are wise people who are hungry. There are intelligent people who fail. Being smart or talented is not the guarantee that you will succeed. People say heaven helps those

who help themselves. Heaven helps those who agree with Jesus that they cannot help themselves and they want Jesus to help them. It is not that we should not work hard but working hard alone will not prevail.

Pharaoh had a very large army and pursued the people of Israel, who had no weapons but at the red sea He found out that the battle was not for the strong and the race not for the swift and that by strength should no man prevail.

Goliath was a very strong foe. He cursed the people of God for 40 days but David had the wisdom of God that gives prevailing strength. Gideon's army started with 32,000. Eventually God pruned them down to 300 because the battle is not for the strong, the race is not for the swift, and by strength shall no man prevail; not even numerical strength.

What is prevailing strength?

1. It is having superior force or influence; efficacious; persuasive. It is to dominate and to be dominant. It is to be above only. It is possessing power that passes powers. 2 Kings 6: 8-20. This power overcame mighty power. It is a power that reveals secrets. When the secrets of the mighty are revealed even to the weak, the weak becomes the strongest.
2. Prevailing strength is to continue forging ahead in the world of evil and sin. Daniel 3:16
3. It is the power to say NO. Gen 39:7-12
4. It is the power to do his will and make his word known even when it is not convenient. Act 8:4
5. It is when nothing can separate you from the love of God. Failures, loss of loved ones, loss of jobs etc. Romans 8:38-39

Why do we need prevailing strength?

1. We do not fight against flesh and blood: Ephesians 6:12
2. The times are evil: Money ritualists, Kidnapping, Corruptions, Immoralities, Armed robberies Idolatry, many youths taking to hard drugs, cultism, yahoo plus etc. 2 Timothy 3:1-3
3. The bad economy and poverty in the land: 2 Kings 6:24-27
4. Because of fake preachers and churches. Gal 2:4
5. To live holy and to make heaven.
6. For safety and victory. 1Sam 2: 9

What is the source of the prevailing strength?

- Proverbs 8:14: Counsel *is* mine, and sound wisdom: I *am* understanding; I have strength.
- Proverbs 10:29: The way of the LORD *is* strength to the upright: but destruction *shall be* to the workers of iniquity.
- Psalm 84:7: They go from strength to strength, *every one of them* in Zion appeareth before God.
- Isaiah 40:31: But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew *their* strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; *and* they shall walk, and not faint.
- Colossians 1:11: Strengthened with all might, according to his glorious power, unto all patience and longsuffering with joyfulness;

From the above scriptures, it is clear that **God is the source**

How do we access this strength?

We can only access the prevailing strength through the wisdom of God.

What is the wisdom of God?

I Cor 1: 24 but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.

I Cor 1:30. But of Him you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God—and righteousness and sanctification and redemption.

It is very clear that Christ is the wisdom of God. No wonder that the bible says I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me. Phil 4:13. He came to give us the strength of God in place of our human strength.

Accessing the wisdom of God : Proverbs 1:20-24

1. Accepts Christ into your life.
2. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly.
3. Live a life of dependence on God through prayer.
4. Fellowship with believers regularly.
5. Access all means of grace; be baptised in Holy Spirit and covet other gifts eg prophecy, word of wisdom etc
6. Make up your mind to live holy.

The promise of God for you as you depend on him this year.

Deuteronomy 32:13 “I will bring honey out of the rock. I will bring oil out of the stone.” We know that a stone cannot produce oil, neither can honey come out of a rock. Those are impossible things. What the Bible is saying is that no matter how harsh the economy is, no matter how terrible the situation is, the Lord God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob is able to squeeze out your breakthrough for you.

Sunday, 10 February, 2019

Dear pastor/minister,

We implore you by the mercies of God to prayerfully deliver this message.

Use this as a guide. Study the outline thoroughly in advance, meditate on the points and let the message become part of you that you may deliver it from the spirit and the head. You can make relevant additions and illustrations.

May God bless your labours with abiding fruits.

PREVAILING STRENGTH THROUGH THE JOY OF THE LORD

Lead Texts: Nehemiah 8:10; Philippians 4:4; 1Thessalonians 5:16;

INTRODUCTION

Explanation of terms

Prevailing means- Overcoming, overthrowing, overpowering and subduing with superior power and strength. The superior power above all powers is the power of God.

There are many things to overcome, overthrow, overtake, overpower and subdue. One of the secrets of prevailing is to be filled with the joy of the Lord in the heart.

You must prevail, overcome, overthrow, overtake, overpower and subdue all forces, attitudes, habits and practices;

1. That can take away from you the blessings of God in this life and the life to come,
2. That may give you, your God or your Church bad names,
3. That may take away your peace,
4. That may take away your health,
5. That may truncate or steal your destiny.

You must prevail, overcome, overthrow, overtake, overpower and subdue your weaknesses, the flesh, the world and the Devil.

You must prevail, overcome, overthrow, overtake, overpower and subdue all family, social and spiritual hindrances.

Joy

Joy is the opposite of sorrow. Joy is good for you. Sorrow is bad. You must not allow sorrow in your heart for a long period of time if at all. This is because sorrow is a poison to the body, soul and spirit of man.

Joy is a pleasant state of the heart caused by something good and which generates an inner energy that:

1. Is able to keep sorrows away.
2. Helps you get out of sorrow quickly.
3. Makes it possible for you not to get offended easily.
4. Makes it possible for you to get over offenses easily.
5. Attracts good luck.

6. Keeps evil spirits away.
7. Can open doors for you.
8. Helps to prevent you from falling sick easily and it helps sickness to heal faster.

This is why God says through his servant Paul, you must fill your heart with the joy that he gives again and again, on a continuous basis.

The joy of the Lord

The joy of the Lord is one of the keys to having God's strength or power in you that is more than enough to match every challenge and duties of life. It is more than enough to make you to-

1. Walk with God along life journey.
2. Do much for God.
3. Become stronger spiritually progressively.
4. Fulfill our purposes in life.
5. Overcome, overpower, overthrow and subdue all our enemies or foes of your soul and destiny.
6. Be a sweet person.
7. Turn all stumbling blocks to stepping stones.
8. You may be hard pressed on every side; you will not be crushed in spirit, soul or body;
9. You may be severely confused or embarrassed; you will never be sorrowful or lose hope.
10. Rise from zero to hero.

In what is the God's Joy?

The joy of this world and natural joy is in things like exam success, career promotion and success, having money, eating and drinking, visiting new places, meeting loved ones, child birth etc. All of these are things that can be seen; and things that are temporal, but things that are not seen are eternal- "as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal." 2 Corinthians 4:18

The joy of the Lord is in spiritual realities-

1. The goodness of the Lord.
2. The power of God.
3. The promises of God.

4. The demonstration of His glory in past and in the present.
5. Persuasion of forgiveness of our sins and acceptance with God.
6. Conviction of having God as our Father.
7. The hope of everlasting life.
8. The glory of wisdom and power that is in us.

How to be filled with the joy of the Lord and the strength that comes with it

God will not pour his joy into your heart. He gives reasons for joy. He makes joy available. You are the one to fill your heart with joy of the Lord.

You can enjoy life by certain heavenly principle or by human principles

1. Get right with God. Accept Jesus into your heart and give your life over to Him.

When Jesus was born-

10 And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people.

11 For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.

12 And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger." - Luke 2:10-12

2. Be filled or be controlled fully by the Holy Spirit. His fruit of joy will fill your life- Galatians 5:22 talks about Fruit of the Spirit- But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, - Galatians 5:22

These are the blessings Holy Spirit bring into your when you allow Him. Joy is one of them.

3. Consciousness of His presence

Psalm 16:11- You make known to me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore. - Psalm 16:11

4. Let the word of God dwell in you in abundance.
5. Be thankful to God and to human beings even for the slightest favour.
6. Forgive.
7. Do good to all with things God has blessed you with.

8. Learn contentment.
9. Learn adjustment.
10. Don't expect too much from people.
11. Be patient with/for God.
12. Hope for the best.
13. Be cheerful (Tujuka)

Sunday, 17 February, 2019.

Dear pastor/minister,

We implore you by the mercies of God to prayerfully deliver this message.

Use this as a guide. Study the outline thoroughly in advance, meditate on the points and let the message become part of you that you may deliver it from the spirit and the head. You can make relevant additions and illustrations.

May God bless your labours with abiding fruits.

TOPIC: PREVAILING STRENGTH FOR COUPLES PASSING THROUGH ROUGH AND TOUGH
TIMES

Lead Bible References:

If you faint in the day of adversity, your strength is small. - **Proverbs 24:10**

I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world." - **John 16:33**

24 "Everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock.

25 And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on the rock. - **Matthew 7:24-25**

Introduction

We are considering the secrets of having more than enough strength to effectively and successfully wade through and overcome storms we may run into in our marriages. It is power to stay above challenges that are threats to the stability and happiness of marriage.

Life is never a long stretch of victory, joy, pleasure, happiness, ease, confidence, sunshine, hope and peace. Life as well is not a long stretch of setbacks, sorrow, failure, fear, pain or despair. It is a mixture of good days and bad days. No matter how bright the sky may be with sunshine, there will still be pockets of clouds in some part of it. In your marriage you were forewarned about rough and tough times-

“For better, for worse...”

“For richer, for poorer”

“In health and in sickness”

Tough and rough times are bound to come. If you fail at such times, you are made of poor stuff because there is enough strength through God in every believer to subdue, overpower and overthrow forces that may be against your marriage to mess it up.

God did not in any place in his word promise a trouble-free life. He only promised victory as we follow his ways that are clearly set out in the bible. He promised grace to survive hard and rough times in life including marriage. Some tough or rough times are really very hard; but some are not that hard. Whatever the severity, there is strength to overcome and be victorious instead of giving in or giving up. If your strength appears not to be sufficient to meet the situation, you connect for more strength. The more the challenge, the more the strength and grace that is available in God for you to tap into instead of giving in or giving up.

Situations that bring rough and tough times in marriage

1. Financial leadership
2. Challenging Children
3. Sickness
4. Immaturity
5. Neglect of responsibilities
6. Extra marital affairs(Infidelity)
7. Sexual maladjustment
8. Selfishness and self-centeredness

Things to avoid when you are passing through hard or rough times in your marriage

1. Self-pity. It will push you into deeper pits.
2. Feelings of helplessness
3. Despair or loss of hope
4. Despondency or depressed spirit
5. Pretending there is no problem and doing nothing
6. Running away from the problem or abandonment of your marriage.

Signs that you are passing rough patches in marriage

1. Feeling drained or exhausted by your marriage.
2. Feeling you made a mistake in choice of marriage partner
3. Feeling helpless
4. Feeling isolated
5. Constant nagging
6. Fears about things generally, divorce and the future.
7. Contemplation of separation

8. Death wishes against self
9. Death wishes against partner

Wisdom tips and powers that will keep you above and in control of your rough and tough times in marriage

Prevailing means overcoming, overthrowing, overpowering and subduing with superior power and strength. The superior power above all powers is the power of God. It is available to you as a child of God.

Grace for hope

1. Don't lose hope but fill your heart with hope even if your spouse is far from the spouse you thought he or she would be
 - Fill your heart with hope even if he or she is
 - May be financial hardship seems to be crippling your marriage, be full of hope
 - May be sexual incompatibility is frustrating and trying to tear your marriage apart, be full of hope
 - May be your marriage is at the verge of collapsing, the light seems to be going dimmer and dimmer, be full of hope.
 - May be unfaithfulness is rocking your marriage, don't lose hope
 - As long as you don't lose hope, there is hope.
2. Grace to pursue peace in spite of hurts, wounds, pains and shame.
 - Turn away from evil and do good; seek peace and pursue it. - Psalm 34:14
 - Turn away from evil and do good; so shall you dwell forever. - Psalm 37:27
 - So then let us pursue what makes for peace and for mutual upbuilding. - Romans 14:19
 - Romans 12:17-21

17 Repay no one evil for evil, but give thought to do what is honorable in the sight of all.

18 If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all.

19 Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord."

20 To the contrary, "if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink; for by so doing you will heap burning coals on his head."

21 Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good. - Romans 12:17-21
3. Prayer grace
Prayer engages heaven to support you with comfort and wisdom. Pray all manners of prayers but let them all be positive.
4. Grace for change
Hard, rough and tough times in marriage call for serious changes in order to get out of the storms.
 - Be prepared to change yourself because hoping to change your spouse will only add to your frustrations.
 - You must change your expectations. This is not accepting defeat but a wise compromise.

- You must change the way you look at things. Things will change in your marriage as you look at things differently as someone rightly said.

Remember that whatever will not bend will likely break.

5. Grace to continue to invest in your marriage all the same. Don't make the mistake of getting so bitter or sorrowful that you stop investing in your marriage. This is the time to invest more in your marriage.
 - Invest prayers of faith
 - Invest assurance
 - Invest more respect
 - Invest cheerfulness
 - Invest money in terms of gift
 - Invest sex
 - Invest gratitude
 - Invest support
 - Invest necessary apology if need be.
 - Give more attention to your spouse etc
6. Try to identify how you got into the situation and do your best to reverse things.
7. By all means make sure communication does not break down
8. Seek help
 Proverbs 11:14 and Proverbs 24:6
 Where there is no guidance, a people falls, but in an abundance of counselors there is safety.
 By wise guidance you can wage your war, and in abundance of counselors there is victory.
 - Join a couples' group in your church or in another Christian place
 - Meet a happily married couple of quite a good number of years in marriage to support you.
9. Be patient and positive if results don't come as fast you expected.
10. Rule out divorce in your heart. Entertaining divorce will block your mind against all possible solutions.
Note that divorce is not a solution but a complication. The casualties are massive.
11. Prevention is better than cure. Find ways of spicing up your marriage daily to keep love in your marriage ever glowing, ever green and ever growing.
12. Try things that have helped you in the past. Bring them back no matter how difficult it may be.
13. Don't let Kindness and considerate attitude leave you. She will do him good, not evil, all the days of her life. – Proverbs 31:12
14. Even if we disagree about everything, we can still be kind to each other – Mathew L Jacobson

Conclusion

Your love and faith in one another can prove true in the test of times as gold does in fire and may they endure all the days of your life together. Just draw on the wisdom and power of God.

Sunday, 17 February, 2019.

Dear pastor/minister,

We implore you by the mercies of God to prayerfully deliver this message.

Use this as a guide. Study the outline thoroughly in advance, meditate on the points and let the message become part of you that you may deliver it from the spirit and the head. You can make relevant additions and illustrations.

May God bless your labours with abiding fruits.

YOUTHS

TOPIC: **Prevailing over peer pressures**

Objective: To provide (youths with) scriptural insight on overcoming negative influence(s) of peer pressure.

Bible Text: Proverbs 1:10-15; 1Kings 12: 1- 19

Introduction

Peers are people who are at the same level in terms of age, interest, status or other attributes and this can include friends, schoolmates, neighbors, social media networks or colleagues at work. Peer pressure is a social pressure by members of one's peer group to take certain actions or adopt certain values in order to conform to group norms.

Peer pressure is applicable to all age categories but its influence is very pronounced among young people because of their strong need for acceptance and a sense of belonging. In addition, there is usually a level of emotional detachment between youths and their parents during adolescence and this creates room for the influence of peers to become prominent. Adolescents who are from broken homes are also more vulnerable to pressures from their peers than those who have their parents living together.

There are several negative effects of peer pressure as would be seen later in this message. Many promising destinies have been marred or destroyed because of the desire to conform to detrimental

behaviors, trends and norms promoted by ungodly peers. Proverbs 13:20 says “He that walketh with wise men shall be wise: but a companion of fools shall be destroyed.” Peer pressure could also be of positive influence especially if the value system of group members is on sound scriptural and moral grounds.

God’s plan for us is to shine as light in a perverse and dark world. Light is strong and prevails over darkness (John 1:5). There will always be temptation to follow the multitude in doing evil but a believer must be strong in the knowledge of God and do what is right despite worldly enticements and pressures. (Daniel 11:32b “... but the people that do know their God shall be strong, and do exploits.”).

1. Biblical examples of peer pressure and the outcomes:

Negative

Dinah & the Daughters of the land - Gen 34:1-2

Rehoboam & his friends - 1Kings 12: 1- 19

Amnon & Jonadab - 2 Samuel 13:1-39

Positive

Daniel & his friends- Daniel 2:16 -19; 3:1-30

NB: Please include one or two contemporary cases to drive home salient points.

2. Some areas of the negative influence of peer pressure on youths:

- a) The choice of fashion: Indecent dressing, excessive emphasis on physical appearance.
- b) Self-esteem issues: Depression, body image issues, desperation to “belong”.
- c) Use of alcohol and drug abuse: Alcohol consumption & addiction, drug abuse & smoking
- d) Premature involvement with the opposite sex in dating & sex: distractions from studies, teenage pregnancy, abortion etc.
- e) Attitude and behavioral issues: Disregard for authorities including parents. Use of foul languages
- f) Others: cultism, exposure to illicit videos and music, absconding from home.

3. Practical guidelines on overcoming peer pressure.

- a) Be genuinely born again: As a child of God, you have a personal relationship with him, and this will keep you focused, and draw you away from bad influence or friends.

- b) Give heed to God's call to SEPARATION: 1 Corinthians 15:33; 2 Corinthians 6:14-18
- c) Discover yourself: Know who you are in Christ and accept that you are “fearfully and wonderfully made in the image of God” Psalm 139:14. Also see 1 Peter 2:9
- d) Choose your friends wisely: Reject bad company and maximize the positive impact of peer pressure by choosing wise and godly friends. (Psalm 1:1-3; Psalm 27:17)
- e) Make the bible your standard: study the scriptures and insist on following what the bible says no matter what others think. (2Timothy 3:14-17; Psalm 119:11).
- f) Be sensitive to the leading of the Holy Spirit. Let Him guide you on where to go, what to do, whom to associate with etc.
- g) Make decisions with your future in view: weigh your options properly in the light of your desired future and avoid everything that can jeopardize your dreams.
- h) Have the courage to say No! Refuse evil enticements/suggestions. Do not be absorbed in pleasing others that you lose your sense of judgment. (Daniel 3:16-20; Gen 39:7-10)
- i) Seek help when necessary: It is advisable that you engage and confide in your parents, pastor or mentors regularly especially if you sense the need for help.
- j) Develop the attitude that if your friends refuse to follow you to heaven, you will not follow them to hell.

Conclusion

The choices you make in life will either make or break you. Do not let other people take the driving seat in your life and influence you against your convictions and beliefs. Your future is bright, prayerfully guard and nurture it.

Prayer Points

1. Father, help me to please you in all my ways in Jesus name
2. Father, please strengthen me to overcome evil enticements and pressures in Jesus name.
3. Father, help me to shine your light everywhere I go in Jesus name

Sunday, 24 February, 2019.

Dear pastor/minister,

We implore you by the mercies of God to prayerfully deliver this message.

Use this as a guide. Study the outline thoroughly in advance, meditate on the points and let the message become part of you that you may deliver it from the spirit and the head. You can make relevant additions and illustrations.

May God bless your labours with abiding fruits.

Topic: You Can Mount Up Like Eagles

TEXT: JOB 39V27-30, ISAIAH 40V26-31

Isaiah 40v31 – But they that wait upon (Hope in) the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint”.

INTRODUCTION

Eagles are the “King of birds” and throughout the bible, God likens Himself and His children to an eagle. Eagles are mentioned 34 times in the bible and are considered an international symbol of strength, stamina, power, majesty, authority and freedom

At the time of the prophecy of the text by Isaiah, Israel suffered a period of great distress politically and economically as the oppressive Assyria invaded and conquered their lands. The nation had really given up hope, thinking that God had abandoned them. (Read Isaiah 40v27)

DON'T EVER GIVE UP ON YOURSELF IN ANY CIRCUMSTANCE, GOD WILL COME, HE WILL SHOW UP FOR YOU (ISAIAH 14V24-27)

The phrase “Mount up” in the text is a translation of the Hebrew word “alah” which means “to go up, to ascend, and to go up over a boundary”. The prophet is communicating the promise that God will provide the renewed strength and courage to overcome obstacles if Israel would only have patience and trust in the Lord’s sovereign timing.

SOME OF THE CHARACTERISTICS OF EAGLES AND THE LESSONS FROM THEM

It is only an eagle believer that can mount up with wings as eagles. God does not expect His children to be in the valley or at the tail region of life. Rather, He wants them to be at the top in all circumstances of life like eagle. Children of God are not made for low places, they are for high places.

1. **EAGLES ARE MAJESTIC AND NOBLE:** Ex 19 v 5 – 6, 1pet2v9
Eagles have a look of royalty about them. Chickens are crowd followers (number 13 and 14). Be an eagle Christian.
2. **EAGLES FLY ALONE AND SOAR AT HIGH ALTITUDE:** 2cor 6 v14 – 18
Eagle flies only with eagles. The only bird that can go 30,000 feet above sea level and as far as aircraft can go. Stay away from chickens and sparrows (those who aim low in life).
3. **EAGLES ARE MASTER FISHERMEN:** Matt 4 v 19, 2 Tim 4 v 5
It is amazing how an eagle catches its prey in the flowing sea. With God's grace, we can be strategic and effective soul winners.
4. **EAGLES LOVE HIGHER GROUNDS:** Eph 2 v 6, Col 3 v 1 – 2, Rev 4 v 1.
For the most part, eagles will always be found living on some type of higher grounds. What is your eagle doing with the chickens? (1 Kings 19v6-8).
5. **EAGLES HAVE STRONG VISION:** Job 39 v 29, Prov 29 v18
Eagles have a very sharp eye, eight times sharper than the eyes of man. Like eagles, believers must have two sets of eye – the natural and supernatural
6. **EAGLES DO NOT EAT DEAD THINGS:** Joshua 1 v 8, Psalm 1 v 2, Lam 3 v 22 – 23, Matt 4 v 4, 6 v 11, 1 Pet 2 v 2, Heb 5 v 12 – 14
Seek God daily for fresh bread; stay clear of outdated information, doctrines and theologies.
7. **EAGLES LOVE STORMS:** Isaiah 43 v 1 – 4, Psalm 30 v; Matt 28 v 20, Psalm 34 v 19, James 1 v 12, Heb 13 v 5,
Eagles get excited when the clouds gather. They use the storm/wind to lift themselves higher. Achievers relish challenges and use them profitably. Stop running from challenges.
8. **EAGLES TEST BEFORE TRUSTING:** Psalm 34 v 8, John 14 v 1, 1 thes 5 v 24,
Female eagle tests the commitment, bravery, ability and strength of the male partner before its consent. God is forever faithful, trust in Him and His promises. (Isaiah 34 v 16)
9. **EAGLES CARE AND TRAIN THEIR FAMILY WELL:** 1 Tim 5 v 8, 1 pet 5 v 7,
The adult eagle takes time to give its eaglets a thorough training on how to fly and feed them with the best food.
10. **EAGLES NESTS ARE BUILT IN THE WILDERNESS:** Psalm 23 v 4, John 16 v 33,
The lord will sometimes build His people (His eagles) in a wilderness type of setting. Moses was in the desert for 40 years before God laid His hand upon him to deliver Israel and David was in the cave in the wilderness 13 – 15 years before he was made a king.
11. **EAGLES HAVE CONTRASTING COLORS THAT MAKE THEM UNIQUE FOR IDENTIFICATION:** Matt 5 v 13 – 16. American bald eagles for example have dark brown skin with a white colored head. Eagles can be easily seen from quite a distance. Be different, stand out for good!
12. **EAGLES RETIRE UNTIL NEW FEATHERS GROW:** Mk 1:35 – 37, Luke 4:1, 14, Act 2:1 – 4, 2 Cor 13 v 5. We occasionally need to shed off old habits and stay before God to renew our strength. You can re-fire in your retirement.
13. **EAGLES ARE STRONG BIRDS OF EXPLOITS:** Dan 11 v 32, Mark 11 v 22 – 24, Eph 6 v 10.
The bird is about 4kg in weight but it can carry on its wings the weight of 20kg. Your size has nothing to do with what God wants to do with your life. Your faith does not have to be the size of your problems. Mount up on the wings of faith.

14. EAGLES LIVE LONG. Psalm 91v16, 92v12-15, 103v5. The average lifespan of an eagle is about 120 years. Wait upon the Lord for strength for He alone determines when the sun will set.

BE AN EAGLE CHRISTIAN, EAGLE IS DIFERENT IN THE KINGDOM OF BIRDS

WHAT TO DO TO MOUNT UP WITH WINGS LIKE EAGLES.

1. Be willing to leave your comfort zone. Amos 6 v 1, Psalm 84 v 7, 1 cor 2 v 9, Phil 3 v 7 – 8 (comfort zone of sin, food, sleep, indifference etc.). Eagle destroys the nest and throws the eaglets out after they have been taught to take care of themselves. (Heb 6v1-2).
2. Wait upon God in prayer and the study of the word of God – Joshua 1 v 8, Psalm 1 v 2, Luke 18 v 1 – 9, grow in grace, stamina and strength for high places. Stay, eat and drink the word in God's presence for strength. (1 King 19v6-8).
3. Carry high places mentality. Eagles are birds of high places. They are not like chickens, sparrows, ravens, turkeys, ostriches e.t.c. Job 39 v 27 – 30. They are always on high, they are always above. (Eph 2v6,1v20-21).
4. Key into the strength of the Holy Spirit. Zach 4 v 6, Luke 24 v 49, John 3 v 8, Act 1 v 8, 4 v 31. Eagles sit on the rock and wait for the thermal current of the wind (the Holy Spirit) and then they soar up high in the sky when the wind comes for them. (Rom 8v11, Eze 2v1-2).
5. Fly by the wings of faith – John 11 v 40, Mark 9 v 23, 10 v 27. Faith is the wing to fly with. It is written that the just shall live by faith (Hab 2 v 4, Heb 11 v 6)

CONCLUSION

Isaiah 40 v 31 is the conclusion of a chapter detailing the greatness of God. It reminds the reader that the strength of men may stumble and fall, but those who trust in the lord have a strength that this world cannot offer. When we see an eagle in flight, soaring on invisible air currents, we can be reminded that the creator who supplies the eagle strength will also strengthen those who call upon His name – Psalm 50 v 15, Isaiah 55 v 6 – 7.