

Ascension and Pentecost

eagle soaring prayer

AIM

To provide some reflection and meditation on the theme of Eagle Soaring Prayer for use by individuals or small groups.

INTRODUCTION

Let me tell you

Several years ago I knew a certain lady had a problem relating to me and me to her. I had prayed on my own and with my husband, but there seemed to be no improvement. She avoided me and without realizing it, I was avoiding her too! I knew it was grieving the Holy Spirit and was hindering my own relationship with the Lord. I knew I needed a different sort of prayer! One day I decided to put it into God's hands and made a choice to worship, because I could see a storm approaching as the situation had got worse. I "set" my spiritual wings in an upward tilt and allowed the wings of my Divine Eagle to carry me on His wings close to God.

I read Isaiah 40:31 *"But those who wait on the Lord shall renew their strength, They shall lift up their wings and mount up close to God as eagles mount up to the sun"* Close to His heart, I saw His beauty and I also saw the beauty of this particular lady as Jesus was in her and the Spirit revealed how precious she was. Amazingly the words came to me...."Get a key cut for your front door and give it to her." I did not understand but I knew that the Holy Spirit wanted me to be obedient...so I checked it with my husband and he agreed that if the Holy Spirit had told me to do this when I was worshipping then it would be good to obey Him.

The following Sunday clutching the key I went to Church where we were pastoring. I looked for the lady with my heart pounding as the anointing of the Spirit began to flow. Again, another choice, to "set" my spiritual wings in obedience or to deny the Spirit. I walked toward her and simply said, "I was praying and worshipping this week and the Holy Spirit told me to give you our front door key to come and go as you please." She burst into tears and asked how I knew. I said hastily that I knew nothing to which she explained her boss in the bank had that week said she could no longer eat her lunch on the premises and she had nowhere to go. Oh how I rejoiced and from that moment on began a life-long friendship that is one I truly treasure. Was that an eagle-soaring prayer? Yes, I believe it was a touch of heaven that came down to earth and changed everything.

EAGLE SOARING PRAYER

Bible readings: Rev 4:1-11, Rev 1:10 and Rev 4:2

Reflection

Eagle Soaring Prayer is inspired by revelation of the heavenly Throne. It is the Spirit that imparts what is in Father's heart. No amount of enthusiasm or effort will enable you to pray these "Eagle Soaring" prayers in your own strength, it is the one and only Holy Spirit connecting to our spirit-man. Jesus Himself told us in John 4:24 *"God is Spirit and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and in truth."* There are certain keys to unlock this amazing reality of eagle-soaring prayer.

Worship is not initiated here on earth: it always begins with God. Apart from His willingness to share Himself with us we would never see His face, forever stranded from His intimate embrace. It is God's revelation and God-birthed as he unveils His Majesty and Holiness when our spiritual eyes are opened to drink in His Matchless Beauty and where we are both

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secure and also somewhat afraid...in love and yet in awe. Worship is a heart response, a heart that is humbled and amazed by the Glory of God. We cannot worship without the sense of Supernatural wonder, He is unequalled in Splendour and unrivalled in Power, God is altogether Glorious, immeasurable and unfathomable. he is Eternal, Immortal and Invisible. Isaiah reminds us.....Isaiah 44:6 *"I am the first and I am the last. Apart from Me there is no God."* God does not need our worship but he loves our worship! He has even paid the way for us to draw near to Him in worship! We come to the Father on the merit of what Jesus Christ has done for us on the Cross, the Resurrection and Ascension....we come through Jesus and in Jesus and with Jesus. We come too in the Power of the Holy Spirit. Such Grace abounds to us and brings us to worship around the Throne of Grace where Mercy flows to the vilest sinner! Hallelujah!

HOW DOES THE EAGLE INSPIRE US?

The eagle is an image of God

The eagle represents the Divine Eagle Himself, soaring above...the Almighty God of the Universe...

Deut 32:1-4 says, *"As an eagle that stirs up her nest, that flutters over her young, He spread abroad His wings and he took them, He bore them on His pinions....he scanned him penetratingly and kept him as the pupil of His eye."*

The eagle is created to fly and to soar

The eagle, as king of all birds is created to soar above, created to fly in the heights.....BUT the eagle is not able to soar above unless he does certain things. Yes, it is the wind thermals that lift the eagle to the heights and so it is with us that the Spirit winds lift us up close to God so that we can worship.

Zech 4:6 *"It is not by might, nor by power, but by My Spirit says the Lord of hosts."* However, even the eagle will not rise unless it does something special. God has created the eagle with a very special device; on either side of his shoulders, where the wings meet the main body, there is a small muscle that the eagle can choose to "lock" or "set" so that his wings are ready for take-off! The action of the eagle reflects how we too can make our choices to soar above in the spirit or stay grounded in our flesh! We have to learn to "set" our spiritual wings in an upward tilt, yes, we are to make Godly choices to soar above and reach the heights destined for us. if the eagle did not "set" his wings and a storm came he would be destroyed on the ground.

Worship can be a similar experience for us

This is our power of choice, it is our free will that we need to exercise to be able to worship and experience "eagle soaring" prayer. Worship should be our daily gift to God, worship around the Throne is where the Spirit will reveal what must take place in the future (Rev 4:1).

John 16:13 says *"When He, the Spirit of Truth comes, he will guide you into all Truth...he will tell you whatever he hears from the Father...he will declare to you the things to come."* Eagle Soaring prayer comes from His Presence and then we are drawn into the heart of God Who will impart to us. Thus worship is the first key to eagle soaring prayer.

LISTENING PRAYER: A GROUP EXERCISE

Prepare to lead a group into a time of silent, listening prayer by explaining that in the quietness God often speaks to us in different ways. He may do this by bringing to mind a portion of scripture, or some other words; through visions, pictures or mental images; or by a spiritual 'nudge' (a sense or impression that doesn't go away)

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Tell the group that you are going to spend a few minutes in silence together listening to God, and that afterwards you will try to discern together what guidance you have received and how this can lead into praying.

1. Pray as introduction to the silence

Inspiring uplifting God, you created us in your image to live in intimacy with you. You said that we would live your kingdom life and soar on wings of eagles. We praise you for your love and faithfulness and we invite your Holy Spirit to hover and rest upon us now, let us come into your glorious presence as we seek your heart. Lord, let your Spirit come...

2. Listen to the Lord

Spend some time in silence patiently listening to God. Don't rush this and don't be afraid of the silence but discern what is best for the group. A group unfamiliar with silence may need only a few minutes the first time. A group more used to silent prayer may prefer ten minutes or even more.

3. Listen to each other

Help the group to pool together the words images and impressions that have come to mind. Do any of the others have a sense of similar guidance being given?

Has God highlighted a focus for prayer or a way of praying about it?

4. Talk to God

Go back into prayer and spend some time praying together about the things the group have become aware of based on the guidance that has been received. This can be more silent prayer or prayer aloud depending on the participants.

If it seems appropriate take a few more moments in listening prayer and continue this cycle of listening.

To think about..

As you try and discern what to do with the words, images and impressions that the people share in the group, it can be helpful to consider these questions:

- Is there a shared sense among the people that this is right?
- Does it sit comfortably with scripture?
- And above all is it honouring Jesus?

You may want to record some of your insights and prayers in a book or journal so the group may return to them later or share them with others.

EVALUATION

Please try to answer these questions for yourself and for others who will use this material:

1. What was the most helpful thing?
2. What was the least helpful thing?
3. What would you like to try now?

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THE NEXT STEP

If you want more seasonal materials please revisit the website.

Acknowledgements

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If you wish to offer any feedback – brickbats and bouquets are equally welcome! – you can do so in various ways.

You can email the Vision4Life steering group about general or website V4L issues via the website or at admin@vision4life.org.uk

If you have comments and particularly contributions to the prayer year, you can email the V4L prayer year coordinator via prayer@vision4life.org.uk

If you want to make contributions or ask questions about other V4L years you can email:

Year 3 – Transformed for Evangelism: evangelism@vision4life.org.uk