

Flying high with wings like eagles

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The eagle teaches its young to fly on their own. The parent pushes the baby bird out of the nest and the eaglet tumbles helplessly through the air, plummeting to earth and certain death. But then, just in time, the parent-eagle swoops under its young, catches the bird on its own strong, spreading wings, and bears it aloft again on sturdy pinions to try once more to fly.

God uses this example of the eagles and eaglets in Exodus 19:4 to help illustrate His relationship with us when He states, "You yourselves have seen what I did to Egypt, and how I carried you on eagles' wings and brought you to myself." In Deuteronomy 32:10, God says He guards His people as the "apple of His eye," like an eagle that stirs up its nest and hovers over its young, that spreads its wings to catch them and carries them on its pinions.

God, who is majestic in power and might, teaches us that He accommodates Himself to our weakness, and bears us up with His ever sturdy strength. It's reassuring when we remember that we have the wings of God hovering over us to meet us at our point of need.

Back in the 1980's Bette Midler came out with the song "You are the wind beneath my wings". There was a story in the Readers Digest Magazine about a man who saw this song come to life when he saw a man roller-skating toward him with an owl, wings outstretched, clinging to a leather patch on his shoulder. As they got closer to him, he realized the owl was missing part of one wing.

The skater stopped for a breather, and the man struck up a conversation as the skater rested. "Twice a day we go out so he can pretend he's flying," the skater shared. "I'm sure he would repay you if he could," the man replied. "He already has," the skater said. "I used to weigh 25 pounds more and I smoked." With that, the skater and bird took off again".

As I reflect on the wings of God uplifting me in my times of need, I think of the song, "The Wind Beneath My Wings", but mostly my mind turns to the many wonderful people God has placed in my life who are and have been an encouragement to me. There have been times when my wing was broken and I was flapping around in circles on the ground when someone came along to help me fly again.

I have come to the realization that we and those around us many times are called to be the hand of God - reaching out and lifting others up and helping them to fly when they can no longer fly themselves. We can be "the wind beneath their wings" and God's provision of strength.

From ancient times the eagle has been regarded as a symbol of courage and power because of the altitude at which it flies. The strength it displays in flight is remarkable. God had this kind of strength and flight in mind for us when He said, "But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles." (Isaiah 40:31)

With wings as eagles, we can lift others up for the glory of God, and all fly high.