

County-Wide Chaplaincy

Thanks you!

June 2023

Waiting

Lately, on many days we are privileged to have a bald eagle soar over our house. I am so taken by these majestic creatures! And always the verse comes to mind about soaring on wings as eagles. Isaiah 40:31 reads, "But those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint." Some translations use the word *wait* in place of *hope* in this verse, and that made me think of how hope and waiting are intertwined. We wait on many things, but the reason we are willing to wait is that we have hope of whatever we are waiting for to actually happen. We might even think of it as waiting with hope.

This month of June holds the culmination of waiting for many. We have many types of graduations in June; there seem to be an abundance of weddings in June, and even Father's Day represents for many the end of a long wait to become a Dad. So very many celebrations have been waited on and planned for.

Sometimes I feel much of my life is spent waiting. Sometimes I even feel that I hurry, just to wait. This verse however, is not just about waiting around for an outcome or something we are hoping for. This verse is about the reward of waiting, hoping, in the Lord. Earlier in the chapter it talks about how our Lord is everlasting, the creator of all we see, how He doesn't tire and knows everything about us! And then it flows into how He gives those who wait upon Him fresh strength, and I like what it says in The Message, "They spread their wings and soar like eagles." To me that is a picture of success! The culmination and reward of trust and faith and patience (waiting).

I also think part of waiting and hoping is not really knowing the outcome. This is where I see the ministry of our chaplains. They are there to come alongside and step in where the outcome does not match what we were waiting for. Perhaps it was a car accident on the way home or an unexpected life-changing decision or a tragedy out of the blue that no one imagined... Life is full of unexpected events, some wonderful and some not. When they are not, it is wonderful to have someone come and be there to help when it hurts beyond measure. Please pray for our chaplains. It is a heavy load they carry, but as our verse says, "Those who wait upon God get fresh strength, they spread their wings and soar like eagles, they run and don't get tired, they walk and don't lag behind." And as it says at the end of the song that contains this verse, "Teach me Lord, teach me Lord, to wait."

If you have a graduation or a wedding or a birth this month, we celebrate with you! If you are a Father, we also want to celebrate you this month. If you simply feel you are "in the waiting", for whatever reason, we trust you will allow the Lord to supply the strength you need and help you continue on your journey with great hope.

Jan Richards

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