

Lifting Up in The SPIRIT as on Wings of Eagles

I. ISAIAH 40:28-31:

²⁸ Hast thou not known? hast thou not heard,
that The everlasting GOD, The LORD,
The Creator of the ends of the earth,
fainteth not, neither is weary?
there is no searching of His understanding.

²⁹ He giveth power to the faint;
and to them that have no might He increaseth strength.

³⁰ Even the youths shall faint and be weary,
and the young men shall utterly fall:

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. ¹

¹ 1, KJV, ISAIAH 40:28-31.

II. On The Wings of Eagles

DJ is a forgotten man. He came to the hospital as a 23 year old inmate from a nearby prison. For whatever reasons of despair and brokenness, he had hung himself. When I met him, he was unresponsive on a ventilator. He was none-the-less shackled to his bed and watched over by two armed prison guards. He had a number of tattoos, one in particular an eagle. Not knowing his Faith heritage for sure, I said a brief silent prayer over him and left my card at the bedside with the guards.

I was called back to his bedside by his Nurse a few days later, the guards having confirmed for us that DJ was Native American Indian in Faith. The Nurse advised me the family had given okay for withdrawal of life support, that they were not local and were not expected in, but requested a prayer be said. Once the ventilator support was stopped, it was expected that DJ would immediately pass away.

I found a Native American Indian prayer, which I revised only slightly, that I could authentically pray over the patient. It is titled "Great Spirit Prayer," which I shall offer as a closing prayer momentarily. At the bedside that day, I prayed for this young man, that The Creator, lifting up the soul of this forgotten man by HOLY SPIRIT as on wings of eagles, would come to know he was a beloved son of GOD. Commending DJ to Divine Mercy, I prayed for peace for his soul and consolation for his family. And DJ died later that day.

III. Into Unfamiliar Ground with Trust in The LORD

Standing at the edge of this tragedy, I called upon The LORD to renew my strength, that I might mount up as with wings of eagles to the task at hand. He gave me the compassion and direction to care for this young man for a few moments in Eternity.

GOD gave me the trust in Him, that if there was family out there, that somehow I might offer them some comfort, knowing that someone was willing to say a prayer for DJ, and that he was not alone at the moment of his passing.

I was willing to step into unfamiliar ground for the sake of another. The LORD made me an agent of Grace for DJ and his family, as well as the guards watching over him and the staff caring for him. Giving me the strength to take up this privilege of being with this young man before he died, his human person and dignity was affirmed in The SPIRIT, as on wings of eagles.

In our ministry duties, where will The LORD send us in His Name? What will our answer be? And where shall we find the strength to stand in the gap with and for people in the midst of tragedy? Shall we rely on our own strength? Then we shall fail.

But if we are willing to rely on The Creator, The everlasting GOD our LORD, we shall mount up as with wings of eagles. He shall renew our strength, enabling us to lift up others as His humble servants.

IV. A Prayer

Let us come before The LORD together
Each according to our own Tradition.

The LORD be with you!
And also with you!
Let us pray...

"Oh, ...[Eternal] Spirit [of The Creator],
Whose voice we hear in the wind,
Whose breath gives life to all the world.
Hear us; [For] we need Your strength and wisdom.
Let us walk in beauty, and make our eyes ever behold
the red and purple sunset.
Make our hands respect the things You have made
And our ears sharp to hear Your voice.
Make us wise so that we may understand
the things You have taught...
Help us to remain calm and strong
in the face of all that comes towards us.
Let us learn the lessons You have hidden
in every leaf and rock.
Help us seek pure thoughts
and act with the intention of helping others.
Help us find compassion
without empathy overwhelming us...
May we seek strength, not to be greater than... [others],
but to fight our greatest enemy – Self.
Make us always ready to come to You
with clean hands and straight eyes.
So when life fades, as the fading sunset,
our spirits may come to You without shame.² AMEN.

Let us go forth to love and serve The LORD!
Thanks be to GOD!

² 2, Adapted from "Great Spirit Prayer." Native American Prayers and Blessings.

V. References

1. "King James Version [Bible]." Bible Works 7. Bible Works, LLC. Norfolk, Virginia. 2006.
2. Adapted from "Great Spirit Prayer." Native American Prayers and Blessings. Retrieved 8/03/2009.
<http://www.angelfire.com/md/elanmichaels/greatspiritprayer.html>

VI. PATIENT IDENTITY

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