

I. Review

You'll remember that last week I told you Psalms 17 is a Psalm of David. When we started Psalms I told you that David, by name, wrote 73 of the Psalms found in your Bible. We also talked about how this was a Psalm that showed us the real key to his (and our) relationship with the Lord. **We saw David's steadfastness, the confidence he has with God, his boldness with God, and of course, that all comes from the self confidence that he has.** The result is that he fulfilled all God's will, and God referred to him in Acts 13:22 as a man after God's own heart. In all that they had together, him and the Lord, God's ultimate goal for him was that he would do what God wanted him to do and what God wanted him to accomplish. Oh boy, did David do it!

The first king of Israel was not God's choice. It was Saul. The second king, David, was God's choice. Then David's son Solomon takes over after him. Each one of them reigns 40 years. Doctrinally, we have Saul, who represents the antichrist, who comes before David the real king of Israel. We have Saul as the false king, then we have David as the real king, and then we have Solomon who represents the millennial reign of Christ. So, we have in these three kings what we will see in the future: the antichrist, David representing the second coming of Christ, and Solomon representing the millennial reign of Christ.

David fights all his life. This is why he is not allowed to build the temple. What he does is wipe out the last of Israel's enemies which makes it possible for Solomon to have a time of peace when he comes to the throne. Israel has no enemies for Solomon's 40-year reign, and there are no wars. We know it's a picture of the millennium. **So, we see that David is a type of Christ at the second coming where he wipes out all the enemies of God, then Solomon is a type of the millennial reign of Christ when there is peace.**

Inspirationally, we're like David. We're fighting the fight right now. **We're up against the opposition of the world, fighting the very enemies of God in these last days.** David represents us as Christians today in his fight to wipe out God's enemies as we too take on the enemies of God. Just as Solomon came at the end of David's life after the enemies were subdued and established his millennium, at the end of the church age, when we go home to be with the Lord, the Lord comes in and establishes His millennium. We do for Christ what David did so God can establish His millennial reign of Christ.

➤ God has something Special for Each of You

We fight the battles now, but our millennium is coming when the Lord Jesus Christ, like we talked about in Bible study a couple of Thursdays ago, sits on the throne and reigns. We've talked about what it means to have a full cup, a full reward, a full joy, a full inheritance, and a full life of God's blessings; however, it's only going to come from our relationship with Christ and our self-determination to do what God wants us to do. **It's controlling our emotions, our steadfastness, and our self-confidence that nothing is going to stand in our way as we fight the battles like David did to make way for Christ to come.**

This is going to be a special year for our church. I have worked for this for 20+ years. I've never said much to anybody other than just showing you where we were going and what I was doing, but I always understood that we would get here someday. I didn't know until the last couple of years as I saw some things develop, that it would come this year. I think the year 2025 is going to be incredible in more ways than one. All you have to do is look around you and see that we are fast approaching something that we're all going to have to experience and fight through to keep what God has called us to do.

I've always wanted a church that was grounded in the word of God and had God's people getting to the point where they were ready to fulfill all that God wanted them to do. And that's where we're at. It has been a long road, but it has been a good road. Yes, there have been potholes and things we've had to negotiate through, but the end result is that we're living proof that no weapon formed against us is ever going to prosper. You are who you are today and where you are today because you have decided that you are going to put the Lord Jesus Christ in your life and make the word of God first in your life. What a way to start the new year...with God taking all of us to the next level as a church.

God is going to give something to everyone in this room. You're going to see, in this church, the leadership stepping up and literally taking ownership now. We've done the ministry, and we've done great things. We've gotten into the word of God, you've all grown, and you're all doing well. **Now you're going to see (at least most of you) what it means to take ownership of what God has given us here.**

Over the 50+ years of my ministry, one of the criticisms that has always been leveled against me is how people say that I expect or tell you that you have to be involved in every single thing that we do here in this church. That has never been the case though I understand that. If you notice and look closely, often people who say those kinds of things simply don't want to do anything for the Lord. It's a good justification to blame us for wanting you to do everything when they don't want to do anything. It's very simple to me. I've faced it all my life, and I'm not a guy who lacks in self-confidence or what God has called me to do. Here's the problem: their lack of passion for the ministry clashes with my passion for the ministry.

That's all that it really is, and I totally understand and do not expect everybody to do everything; however, there's something that you need to understand, and this is part of the problem. When I got saved some 60 years ago, it changed everything about me. My purpose changed, my perspective about things in life changed, and my passion changed. I'm sorry if that bothers you. God's people just need to do whatever they can. All you young guys and gals have all the zip and fire; you can just about do anything. You mid-line people in your 50s and 60s, you've slowed down a little bit, but you've still got it together. You older folks are valuable, too.

The great story in Mark 14:8 was about one little lady, and the Bible says, *she hath done what she could*. That's really what it's all about. It's doing what you can and finding that balance in your life. **God didn't save you to sit, but at the same time God didn't save you to necessarily go around the world and be a missionary; however, God did save you to serve.**

I've told you before that there are eight things that a good pastor must understand how to do, and one of them is to be able to motivate people. I don't know about you, but I can't stand to hear a preacher just get up and talk like he's just gotten baptized in dill pickle juice. He has no fire in anything he says, everything is just monotone. He never gets excited about anything. How do you get your people excited if you're not excited? You don't. Yet people get upset with preachers because they get on fire for the Lord and get passionate, but you'll pay \$50 a pop to go hear some motivational speaker who will motivate you to do better at work. Well, that's my job. I'm going to motivate you to do better as a child of God.

It's my job to keep the opportunities that God gives us in front of us. We are not a dead church. We are alive and well and God has got His hand on this place. It just keeps moving, and it's my job to keep that before you. It's your job to figure out where you're at and what you can and want to do. I feel sorry for people whose motivation to do something for God doesn't match the motivation that God had dying on the cross to save them. The real question is that once you get saved and you understand that God has something that He wants you to do, and as He said to David (He knew David would fulfill all His will), the only question any of us have to ask ourselves after salvation is **how far we are willing to go for Him.** What are you willing to do for Him? You have to look at where you're at, what God has for you, and let God get you through that. It's a team effort. **Christianity has always been a team effort.** It's everybody working together like the body realizing that certain elements of this body are going to do greater things than others, but it doesn't mean that we're not part of the team and that we don't support them and do everything that needs to be done. But you're going to always find folks, bless their hearts and I love them, who never miss an opportunity to miss an opportunity.

When you get off the old path and get on the wrong one, in time you criticize everything that God does. It's just the way it goes. You all have seen that. So next year, with all the opportunities coming up, there will be something for everybody. It doesn't matter where you're at spiritually, how old you are, or what you can or cannot do. You don't have to go out of here and say, "Well, Bob expects us to do everything that he's talking about!" That has never been true, but my advice to you is this. **Quit telling God what you can't, or what you won't do, and start asking God what He wants you to do.** Start with that.

In 1961, JFK in his inaugural address said, "Ask not what your country can do for you, but what you can do for your country." Now the model in the Bible for that is found in Acts 9 with the conversion of the greatest Christian that ever lived: the apostle Paul. In Acts 9:1-6, we find his salvation, and the first thing that he says to God after he's saved ought to be the first thing that comes out of every one of our mouths after we get saved. You know what he said? He said, "*Lord, what wilt thou have me to do?*"

II. Where you're at and where God wants to take you

Today, as we try to finish Psalms 17, I want you to see some things that will not only go along with where you're at in your life but where God is going to take you. This is a great Psalm of David. I preached on the first five verses last week, but I want to read the whole thing again. **Today we're going to focus on Psalms 17:6-9, but we want to keep the context.**

Psalms 17:1-9. Hear the right, O Lord, attend unto my cry, give ear unto my prayer, [that goeth] not out of feigned lips.

2. Let my sentence come forth from thy presence; let thine eyes behold the things that are equal.

3. Thou hast proved mine heart; thou hast visited [me] in the night; thou hast tried me, [and] shalt find nothing; I am purposed [that] my mouth shall not transgress.

4. Concerning the works of men, by the word of thy lips I have kept [me from] the paths of the destroyer.

5. Hold up my goings in thy paths, [that] my footsteps slip not.

6. I have called upon thee, for thou wilt hear me, O God: incline thine ear unto me, [and hear] my speech.

7. Shew thy marvellous lovingkindness, O thou that savest by thy right hand them which put their trust in [thee] from those that rise up [against them].

8. Keep me as the apple of the eye, hide me under the shadow of thy wings,

9. From the wicked that oppress me, [from] my deadly enemies, [who] compass me about.

➤ David's Confidence in his Relationship with the Lord

Look at verse six. ***I have called upon thee, for thou wilt hear me, O God: incline thine ear unto me, [and hear] my speech.*** Now as we saw last week, we see the personal confidence that David has when he is talking to God. Another great example of this would be Moses and his relationship with God.

I have called—David calling on God. He's not asking, he says, *incline thine ear*. In other words, he's saying, "God, literally stop whatever you're doing and listen to what I'm saying!" You'll find the word *incline* several times in the Bible; a couple of times in Proverbs that are very helpful, but **the word *incline* means to do something or hear something with a specific goal or purpose.** And that's what he's asking God. In this case he is saying, "God, I want you to be purposed to be there and hear my prayer to be able to help me." **And this is something that again shows us the confidence that he has in his relationship with God that most people don't have.** Most people come to God fearfully or skeptically. This is the difference between David and most of God's people. He has a boldness, and David obviously is facing the oppositions of life, and he calls God to help him. I'm going to tell you; this is a great lesson for each of us because we too are going to face the opposition. It's a great lesson because of what follows in verses seven and nine.

➤ The Wicked that Oppress and Deadly Enemies Who Compass About

In life and in ministry, you're going to find, as verse seven says, those that rise up against you. Then verse nine says, *the wicked that oppress me, [from] my deadly enemies, [who] compass me about.* The attack is going to come in our lives. I can tell you about all the blessings of God, serving God, building a relationship with God, and how great it is (and it is), but I want to tell

you that the devil is not pleased when you decide to do all of God's will. He's going to throw roadblocks at you. He's going to use people and put circumstances in your life. He's going to do everything he can to deter you. When he throws the world, the flesh, and the devil at you and attacks you, and your deadly enemies, the wicked, those that rise up against you, I want you to understand something. And this is the key to getting through it. This is something you never want to forget, because we have a tendency when the tough times come that we get so emotionally charged, lose the principles involved, and let our emotions take over so that we actually lose sight of what I'm about to give you.

When the attack comes from the wicked, it's going to come in two formats. You have to understand these two formats. You don't want to look at it in a general sense of "Everybody hates me and I'm getting clobbered!" No, no, no! **You need to see the mindset behind the attack, and the attack will always come in two forms.**

1. **He will oppress you.** That will be an internal attack. They're going to come after you on an emotional level. In the Bible, we talk about demonic activity, and I've told you before that you have two aspects of the devil destroying people's lives. You have people who are possessed by the devil, and people who are oppressed by the devil. A child of God can never be possessed by the devil. The devil can never take over your body because the Holy Spirit of God is already in your body, but what he can do to a child of God is to oppress you. When the devil wants to stop you dead in your tracks, that's where the attack is going to come first. He's going to attack your feelings and your emotions. He's going to make you doubt yourself. He's going to make you wonder if God is really hearing you or even if you're saved in some cases. The attack is going to be inward. It's going to be on your reins or your emotions because he wants to weaken you emotionally through fear, anxiety, and weakening of your spirit.
2. **He is going to compass you about.** This will be an outside attack. The oppression will weaken your will and weaken you emotionally so that the outward attack will then succeed because you must be strong inwardly to repel any attack outwardly. When he oppresses you first, and you're in a weakened state, he will breach the wall and get you.

If you ever spent any time in the military and went to AIT where you get Advanced Individual Training, and you're trying to figure out how to take a stronghold position, they will teach you two things which are basically these same two principles. They will tell you that before you ever make an assault, to take a position. You use your artillery to bombard it and to weaken the position. I'm going to tell you something. There is nothing more terrifying, nothing that will weaken your spirit more and break you internally, than a good artillery barrage landing on your position. Those things are throwing pieces of metal the size of tires and guys are getting blown in half. It's coming in everywhere, and there is no place to hide. It makes you absolutely fearful, and after they pound you with that, then they come after you to compass you about.

It was like this in every battle we ever fought. In D-Day, they bombed the shore for three days before the troops went in. It was the same in Okinawa, Tarawa, and Iwo Jima. They bombarded the island for days with a million shells. Why? Because they wanted to weaken their will. They

wanted to oppress them before they compassed them in battle. It's a standard trick, and God's people fall for it.

You know how I'm big on principles and patterns. The principle and the pattern for what I just gave you is in II Kings 6. We'll get into this in Patterns in a few months. This is the story of Elisha and the young man. It's a story where the devil completely surrounds Elisha and this young kid. **In the story, you find two examples. Elisha, the seasoned child of God, who is tried and proven in battle, and you see the young man who represents a young Christian.** The young man looks up and sees the army of the enemy surrounding them, and he sees and feels the oppression of being about to get compassed. He fears and asks Elisha what they are going to do. Then God opens the young man's eyes and shows him all around are the heavenly host of 100 million angels. You see, the problem is you young Christians can't see the heavenly host. All you see is the horde that is coming after you. Elisha, the seasoned Christian, makes one of the greatest statements in the Bible. ***And he answered, fear not: for they that be with us are more than they that be with them.*** That is a great story. You don't fear the oppression. You don't fear them compassing you about. You have to be able to see past that; you have to be able to see what Elisha saw. God opened the young man's eyes and gave them a great deliverance. Sometimes we never get the great deliverance because all we can see is the enemy oppressing us and compassing us without ever seeing what God has there for us.

➤ Leadership is Leading in the Good Times and the Bad

If you're going to go anywhere in your Christian life, and if God is going to use you outside of where you're sitting this morning, this is something that you're going to have to learn. You're going to have to grow up. You're going to have to realize that leadership is about leading, not just when everything is going well, but when everything is going south. When this happens, the world tries to oppress you, weaken your spirit, and the hordes of hell try to compass you, Psalms 17 will give you the key.

Psalms 17 will give you two of the greatest Biblical principles based on our relationship with God that I've been building the last several months. This Psalm is built around these two principles and these two verses. This will be the answer and the key to when your trouble starts and when they come after you. **If you're sitting here contemplating doing something for God in your young Christian life, I guarantee you that they're going to come after you.** In this church and in all my ministry, I've seen people who were great and that at one time loved the Bible, loved God, and God was using them. They were good people, and many still are good people; however, something changed. Although I can't do it for you, I can give you the principles that will guarantee that will never happen to you. This will be the answer when the oppression comes and you're being compassed about.

Proverbs 25:28. He that [hath] no rule over his own spirit [is like] a city [that is] broken down, [and] without walls.

When he oppresses you, if your wall is not strong, he'll breach that wall so fast you won't know what hit you. This is the importance of having that wall strong in your life.

II Kings 6:16. And he answered, Fear not: for they that [be] with us [are] more than they that [be] with them.

Isaiah 54:17. No weapon that is formed against thee shall prosper; and every tongue [that] shall rise against thee in judgment thou shalt condemn. This [is] the heritage of the servants of the Lord, and their righteousness [is] of me, saith the Lord.

The greatest advantage that the devil has in a child of God's life, listen to me, is our fear and lack of self-confidence in the principles to operate through any tough time. That's the mark of a leader. A leader is someone who, when the world is going to pieces and everything is falling apart, goes where nobody else wants to go. It's like a fireman who when everybody is running out of the burning building, they are running in. You're going to be faced with situations that other people can't handle. You're who they're looking at. You must have the ability, no matter what the situation is, to lead through it.

III. Two Great Principles Found in Psalms 17:8

Now let's look at verse eight, which is the first of two principles. *Keep me as the apple of the eye, hide me under the shadow of thy wings,*

➤ Keep Me as the Apple of the Eye

The first thing I want to talk to you about is *keep me as the apple of the eye*. Now in the Bible, apples will be a reference and a picture of the word of God and always connected to our relationship with God.

Proverbs 25:11. A word fitly spoken [is like] apples of gold in pictures of silver.

He says the word of God is like apples of gold. Gold represents the deity of Christ. Then he says a picture of silver because it's through the word of God that you see the picture of God's redemption or salvation. Then he says it's a word that is fitly spoken. What does that mean? It means that through the word of God you take the situation, you see it and understand it, and then you put the right words in the right order, in the right context, for the right circumstances.

Did you ever notice how the world plays on this? The world says, "An apple a day keeps the doctor away." Then the devil's church tries to tell you that the apple was the forbidden fruit that Eve ate in the garden. See how it works? He's always at work destroying any principle in the word of God. That's what he does, and God's people are so stupid because they don't have any understanding.

In the book of Song of Solomon, you'll find that our relationship with Christ is referenced three times as apples and an apple tree. In Song of Solomon 2:3, he says Christ is our apple tree and we are to sit under the shadow and enjoy that fruit. In 2:5, he says, in our relationship with Him under the apple tree, to comfort us with apples. In 8:5, he says that we were raised up under the apple tree. Do you see how it fits into your life and my life?

*Proverbs 7:2. Keep my commandments, and live; and **my law as the apple of thine eye.***

*Matthew 6:22. **The light of the body is the eye:** if therefore thine eye be single, thy whole body shall be full of light.*

In Matthew 6:22, we're told that the light of the body is the eye. **It's a reference to us having the singleness of eyesight when we look at God and the word of God.** Then he says if the eye be single, the whole body be full of light. It's a picture of the apple of the eye; what your eye and my eye focus on that is the most important thing in our lives: the gold and the silver apples. It's keeping your eyes on Christ and staying focused on His word. When the world says an apple a day keeps the doctor away, they're talking about in a physical sense, but I'm talking about a spiritual sense. **It's keeping the apple of the word of God in your eye, and never losing sight of God, the word of God, or the principles of the word of God.**

*Isaiah 26:3. Thou wilt keep [him] in perfect peace, [**whose] mind [is] stayed [on thee]:** because he trusteth in thee.*

You keep your mind stayed because your eyes are stayed as the apple of God's eye on the word of God. Every Christian ought to have that apple of God's eye and be the apple of God's eye in your relationship.

➤ Hide Me Under the Shadow of Thy Wings

Then the second thing he says here is *hide me under the shadow of thy wings*. Now the shadow of thy wings is one of the greatest studies you'll ever take in the Bible, much like the apple of the eye. To start this, and I want to walk you through it so you see it, let's go back to Deuteronomy 32, and we'll build it from here. **This is the definitive context on the shadow of thy wings.** He's talking to Israel now.

Deuteronomy 32:9-11. For the Lord's portion [is] his people; Jacob [is] the lot of his inheritance.

*10. He found him (Israel) in a desert land, and in the waste howling wilderness; he led him about, he instructed him, he **kept him as the apple of his eye** (there it is again).*

11. As an eagle stirreth up her nest, fluttereth over her young, spreadeth abroad her wings, taketh them, beareth them on her wings:

Now the picture here is God dealing with Israel. It's a tribulation as well as historical picture, and **God here is likened to a mother eagle.** The nation of Israel is like her little baby eaglets. **They're in the nest, and the mother eagle is spreading her wings over that nest to make sure that nobody hurts those baby eagles (the nation of Israel).**

Next, we want to look at the book of Exodus. Let's go to Exodus 19, and we'll see it again.

*Exodus 19:4. Ye have seen what I did unto the Egyptians, and [how] **I bare you on eagles' wings, and brought you unto myself.***

Now turn over to Psalms 61, and let's look at it again. I want you to get these.

*Psalms 61:4. I will abide in thy tabernacle for ever: **I will trust in the covert of thy wings.** Selah.*

Now the word covert is another word for secret. We talk about covert operations in the military. Those are secret operations. **What he's saying here is that what God is doing with Israel is between them and God.** You also can't miss the second coming at the end of the verse with the word *Selah* which always represents the millennial reign of Christ.

Now, turn over to Revelation 12. This is a tribulation context. Revelation 12 and 13 are the two greatest chapters in the New Testament on the devil. Here we see how the devil is going to hate Israel, going to come after Israel, going to try to destroy Israel, but look what God does.

Revelation 12:13-14. And when the dragon (this will be the devil) saw that he was cast unto the earth (the middle of the tribulation period), he persecuted the woman (that will be Israel) which brought forth the man [child] (that will be Christ).

*14. And to the woman (Israel) were given **two wings of a great eagle** (there it is), that she might fly into the wilderness, into her place, where she is nourished for a time, and times, and half a time (that's 3 ½ years), from the face of the serpent.*

You're going to find this further defined for you in Matthew 24. I want to show you how these two verses kind of go together that dispel a myth that a lot of guys teach out there who don't know very much about the Bible.

Matthew 24:15-21. When ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation (the beginning of the last half of the tribulation), spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place, (whoso readeth, let him understand:)

16. Then let them which be in Judaea flee into the mountains (Selah Petra or the rock city):

17. Let him which is on the housetop not come down to take any thing out of his house:

18. Neither let him which is in the field return back to take his clothes.

19. And woe unto them that are with child, and to them that give suck in those days!

*20. **But pray ye that your flight be not in the winter, neither on the sabbath day:***

21. For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be.

Now it says pray that your flight be not in the winter. How many times have I heard somebody say that they're going to try to get out of the airport in Tel Aviv, and they should pray that it's not on a sabbath because they don't have any flights going out on the sabbath. Wow!

The Bible shows that they're on the rooftops and they're in the fields, and they actually see him (the antichrist) coming down to Jerusalem. Then they flee, but they're not running to the airport to catch Flight 2193. **That flight there is on the wings of an eagle.** I just showed you how God

uses His wings to protect Israel, and that flight from Jerusalem to the rock city is under the wings—God’s protection.

➤ Making the Practical Application

Doctrinally, all this will be Israel. Historically, we know it fits with David, but inspirationally, it’s to me and you. Now let me show you how you make the practical application to this. I’ve showed you the historical and the doctrinal (dealing with Israel: the wings), but we are told to keep the word of God as the apple of our eye. We too are told to hide under the shadow of the protection of God’s wings because when the oppressor comes and they try to compass you about, these are the only two things, when you understand it, that are going to get you through.

Now here’s the practical application for me and you, and this is where you’re going to have to be if you’re really going to go and do God’s will in your life. You’re going to have to grow up, folks! I don’t mean that in a derogatory way because so many of you have grown up tremendously, but you can’t stop now. With every level God takes you up, there is another learning curve of things that you’ve got to learn to trust God in, and you’re about to go up two or three more levels here pretty quickly.

*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.*

Notice that up to this point, it’s been the wings of God as an eagle. Now we are told to mount up with wings as eagles. **This is no longer God’s wings over us. It’s now you spreading your own wings.**

You know everything that God made shows you something in the Bible. Did you ever see a little bird’s nest out in your tree? There are little eggs in it, and the mother protects the eggs and keeps the other things away that would hurt them. Then the eggs hatch, and you have those little birdies with their mouths open all the time. The mother is scavenging food and actually dropping it into their mouths. **Then there comes a time, as those little birds grow and get stronger, that the mother boots them out of the nest.** She kicks them off the limb out of the nest, and now they are forced to do one of two things. They can either hit the ground, and my cat across the street is going to get them, or they learn to fly. **You can only have your mouth open and get the word of God for so long until you have to learn to fly yourself.** You have to get out of the nest. I know it’s comfortable here. I know you don’t have to worry about too much. Everybody likes you and you have a good reputation at work, but when you start to take your stand for the Lord, all that changes. **Every one of you have to mount up with wings as eagles at some point of your life.** Let me show you how that works.

In the Bible, an eagle will represent the highest form of the bird kingdom, or fowls in the air. **Did you ever notice how God sometimes will pick one animal, and He’ll single that animal out? Then He’ll build a whole series of teachings around that animal.** You don’t go 21 verses in Genesis chapter 1 before He singles out the word whale. *And God created great whales*; why didn’t He say fish? He singled out the whale, and then the rest of the Bible He builds the whole story around that whale. In Genesis 1:24, he singles out the word cattle. *And*

God said, Let the earth bring forth the living creature after his kind, cattle, and creeping thing, and beast of the earth after his kind: and it was so. Then He builds the rest of the story around in the Bible about the importance of cattle.

In I Corinthians 3, the judgment seat of Christ, what is the first thing He sets up? Gold. Gold all through the Bible has been set apart as a standard above every other precious metal. Then He says silver. That's set apart to show you redemption. Back in the Old Testament, everything that was redeemed had to be redeemed with 30 pieces of silver.

He set apart the word lamb, and now he sets apart the word eagle. In the Bible, the eagle is respected for all the majestic things that a bird is, and it's a picture of what we ought to be as a child of God. The reason for this is the superior characteristics of an eagle that should match every one of our lives. Let me show you.

Every Christian ought to be an eagle-eye Christian. Allow me, if you will for a few moments, to show you some of the amazing things about eagles and what we should be like.

1. They're incredible in flight. They have the longest wingspan of any bird, and they can cover great distances without exerting much energy at all. It's because they have the ability to ride the wind circuits effortlessly and just glide through the air. They're very fast in flight; they've been clocked at 95 miles per hour. That's moving!
2. They have incredible eyesight. They have eyesight that is 8 times better than the human eye. They can fly at a height of up to 1,500 feet, and their eyesight is so good that as they're soaring through the air, they can see a rodent two miles away.
3. Their eyes are positioned unlike any other fowl. Their eyes are positioned so that they see out of both eyes at the same time, which gives them a balance and a depth perception of everything around them. Their eyes have three eyelids. It gives them the incredible ability to see during the day but also gives them the ability to see at night.
4. They are a symbol of power and strength. In life, we use the term eagle for things that denote something powerful. The highest level in Boy Scouts is an Eagle Scout. We look at sharp eyed people and call them *Old Eagle Eye*. The symbol of the U.S. is the Eagle.

You and I as God's people ought to be exactly what Isaiah 40:31 says. **Like an eagle, we should see things from a higher plane of life that the average person never sees it from.** We just finished deer season, and most of you know that if you want to do deer hunting right, you get in a deer stand. The reason is obvious. If you get up in a deer stand, you get a totally different perspective of everything around you, and you can see from 360 degrees everything that's going on with a depth perception you don't get just sitting under the tree.

- a) He says we should learn to wait upon the Lord. That's the biggest problem we all have as God's people. We get in too big of a hurry. We want things in our time not God's time. We want it the way we want it not the way that God wants it. There's nothing going to get you in more trouble than these two things.
- b) He says we should learn to renew our strength. You have to do that every day of your life. I don't have time this morning to tell you how to do that, but most of you already know how to do that.

- c) He says we should mount up with wings as eagles. That's your spiritual growth. This concept will make the difference in how you see and understand everything in life.

In the Bible, you're going to find that on the wall, as high as that wall was, David wasn't satisfied with just the height of the wall. He built towers on that wall. **Those towers gave him the ability from a height to be able to see miles around what was coming his way.** Every child of God should be like that eagle. You ought to be soaring up there and looking at everything that's out there that is coming your way.

Let's look back at some of the amazing things about eagles and what we should be like.

1. **I told you eagles can ride the wind circuits and glide effortlessly without any work in their wings.** They can stay aloft and never exert themselves. That's what a child of God should do because in Ecclesiastes 1:6, it tells us that the Holy Spirit of God works through circuits, i.e. the air moving. The Holy Spirit of God is a picture of air. You shouldn't need to do all the manual labor that so many of God's people do. You should just soar with the Holy Spirit of God. He puts the lift under your wings. He'll guide you and take you wherever you want to go. All you have to do is keep your eyes focused and just ride the current of the Holy Spirit of God.
2. **I told you eagles see with both eyes. That's you and I having both eyes focused on the word of God.** To us, that's getting great depth perception, great perspective, great balance, and understanding circumstances and situations beyond how they appear. You're going to have people come into your world and present things to you that are going to look like one thing but in actuality are something else. The only thing that's going to help you from falling for it is the singleness of your eyes looking through the principles of the word of God. Last week I showed you Hebrews 5:14, *...even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.* That's singleness of eye. It's seeing with both eyes, not one eye here and one eye there, the word of God and what God has for you to do and seeing how it works.
3. **I told you that eagles have three eyelids.** That's interesting. You have God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. I don't know if you know this or not, but each one of them look at things in life differently. You know what the problem is with God's people? You think God just sees it all like you see it. That eagle has three eyelids. **It represents for us seeing and understanding what God the Father sees, understanding what the Holy Spirit of God sees, and understanding what Jesus Christ sees.** How many of God's people can even figure that out? But what if you're an eagle, and you're soaring in the Holy Spirit of God? You've got that perception, that incredible eyesight, and you're that majestic bird with the wings that can keep you aloft with God. What does God the Father look at? You think He looks at you, but He doesn't. I know that's a shock to your system, but so is eating hot taco sauce after a long day. **God the Father looks at Israel.** That's all He cares about. Yes, He loves you, but you've got to understand where God's focus is. God's focus is on Israel. **What does the Holy Spirit of God look at? He looks at ministry.** He looks at the people that He wants you to win to Christ and tell the story of Christ to. **What does Jesus Christ look**

at? In Song of Solomon, we see that He's the one that looks at you. Now all three are one, but they're all three separate; and yes, God takes care of you and God watches over you, but He does it through Jesus Christ. **You've got to understand how the trinity works.** Every time somebody makes a touchdown or kicks a field goal and is thanking God, know that God cares nothing about that. God's focus is on the Middle East right now and the man of sin who is probably out there walking around, and God has got His attention on bringing His wife back to Him. The Holy Spirit of God is interested in you fulfilling God's will in your life of going out wherever the Holy Spirit of God guides you, so you can go exactly where He wants you to go and do what He wants you to do—ministry. And Christ, all He cares about is you. Song of Solomon Chapter 2 makes that so clear. Like God can't wait to get his wife back (Israel), Christ can't wait to get his bride. That's you! Right now, you can't see Him, but He's looking through the windows showing Himself through the lattice. He can't wait to get His bride, so He's got to have a little glimpse of you. You know what the problem is? We don't love Him like that. God looks at Israel, the Holy Spirit of God looks at people in ministry, and Jesus Christ looks at you, and if you don't understand how those three operate, together yet individually, you'll never build a relationship with Him.

➤ **Seeing Things from God's Standpoint instead of the World's**

When you do those things, you wait on God, you renew your strength, and you mount up with the wings of eagles, you now can see in your life where we live in America. You now begin to identify everything that you're faced with from God's standpoint instead of the world's (Fox News, CNN, ABC, CBS, Newsweek). With the eye of an eagle, everything in life now takes a different perspective based on a different line of sight.

In the crusades, why did God let the Muslims take Jerusalem instead of the Catholic Church? Think about that for about 20 years. That's the eye of an eagle. You've got to see things like that. You've got to understand that history, as it's presented to you, is totally different than how God is seeing it. Look at what's happening in the Middle East. The eye of an eagle sees that God, for the last time, is setting something up. What about the Vietnam War; how does an eagle see it? World War I and World War II are the same thing. They were brutal wars. God allowed 40 million people to die all so He could put His people back in the land in 1948. It's the difference between looking at ground level and soaring like an eagle. What about Roswell, New Mexico in 1947? They start out by telling you that they found an alien spacecraft and then the next day they shut it down claiming it was a weather balloon. You've been getting disinformation on it for the last 60-70 years. What does an eagle see? In 1865, Lincoln was assassinated at Ford's Theater. History tells you that John Wilkes Booth hated Lincoln and was a southern sympathizer, but what they don't tell you is the role that the Roman Catholic Church played in it. **History is right there for you to see what God is doing, what the Holy Spirit of God is doing, and what Christ is doing.** It's the same with the Kennedy assassination. Even in the presidential election we just had which was key. I saw Kamala Harris and the leftwing progressives winning this election even though I didn't say anything to anybody. Then one thing changed it, and when that one thing changed, I knew she was going to lose, and I knew how it

was going to go because I was soaring high enough that I could see what was on the horizon. I'm not going to tell you what that one thing was, but that one thing set it up so that the antichrist is ready to go. And you're just all excited because your 401Ks are going to get fatter. That's your problem, you need to soar with the eagles instead of hanging out with the turkeys.

➤ Eagles vs. Vultures

In the Bible, there are two key birds that look alike and many times they're mistaken one for the other. They're both found and defined in the Bible. One is an eagle, and the other is a vulture. **In this, you'll find the two types of Christians you're going to deal with in life.** Job 12:7 says, *but ask now the beasts, and they shall teach thee; and the fowls of the air; and they shall tell thee:* The Bible tells you that the animals that He created will show you something if you're looking at it through an eagle eye.

Eagles will only go after things that are alive. A child of God with an eagle eye should only associate with things and people that have life to them—spiritual life. They soar high above the ground waiting patiently for the food and see what they need to see. They'll never touch a dead thing. Vultures, on the other hand, will never go after anything alive but will only eat dead rotten carcasses. You know where you see them? They're not soaring, they're flying around looking for something dead to eat on the ground. You're going to find God's people that are just like that. In the Bible, one is associated with God (Isaiah 40:31), and the other is associated with the devil (Isaiah 34:11).

IV. Summary

We as God's people have two key areas that need to be in our lives to keep us safe from the enemies around us who want to oppress us and compass us about. We need to stay under the shadow of His wings, and we need to develop our own ability to fly. Part of what God is doing here and has done with you guys and gals over the years is kicked you out of the nest. You're out preaching and witnessing now, and He's about to expedite that a little farther. You're going to be everything that God wants you to be by being the apple of His eye, and then as a shadow of a mother eagle, and in time you will grow up with wings of an eagle. You too will soar and understand everything around you with a perception that God gives you.

Proverbs 2 lays out seven things, and when he gets down to the seventh, he says, then shalt thou find the knowledge of God. Not the knowledge about God; the very knowledge that God has; you will have. And you too will be able to see the world and see it as God sees it. Then nothing will fool you. Nobody will pull the wool over your eyes.

*Isaiah 42:9. Behold, the former things are come to pass (that's the things that God already did), and new things do I declare (God is going to have some new things for us): **before they spring forth I tell you of them.***

There is not anything happening out there that God will not show you before it comes, but you've got to get soaring with the Holy Spirit of God. You've got to get the wings and eyes of an eagle. It's allowing God's Holy Spirit to simply take you wherever He wants you to go.