

GOD'S UNFAILING COMFORT

LESSON 2

Isa. 40:27-31

Time is available only for a brief discussion of review questions from previous lesson.

INTRODUCTION:

Brief review of highlighted pointers from Lesson 1.

1. **Difficulties will be experienced on our Pilgrim's Journey."**
 - (a) See 1 Peter, note chapter 1:6-7; **also note carefully 4:4, 12.**
 - (b) In John 16 we have: **Christ's words of warning and assurance of joy and hope.**
 - (1) John 16:1-16: Words of Comfort
 - (2) John 16:17-33: Your Sorrows will Turn to Joy
 - (c) **A favorite quote: "God didn't promise smooth sailing but He guarantees safe landing."**
 - (1) Do not be cast down, hope in God continuously (Psa. 42:5, 11; 43:5)
 - (2) He is able to keep what you have committed to Him 2 Tim. 1:12; Heb. 7:25
Heb. 7:25 NKJV
"Therefore He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them."
See also Jude 24, 25.
2. **A Quick Glance at Isa. 40**
 - (a) In essence the chapter deals with: **"The Comfort and Majesty of God."**
 - (b) Isaiah addressed the Jews who were in captivity in Babylon.
 - (1) They (the Jews) were in a state of humiliation and servitude.
 - (2) They were helpless and did not have the resources to liberate themselves.
 - (3) They saw no way out!! To them it was nothing but darkness, despair and doom.
 - (4) **But God had not forsaken them and will bring about their deliverance!!**
 - (c) **Topics covered in the chapter (Briefly noted)**
 - (1) **Vv. 1-11:** Begins the chapter with a promise of comfort and deliverance.
 - (2) **Vv. 12-26:** Promises that God has power necessary to deliver His people.
 - (3) **Vv. 27-31:** Promises that "those who wait for God will renew their strength and will mount up with wings as eagles" (Isa. 40:31).
 - (d) **As noted in Lesson 1, this Lesson (Lesson 2) will discuss Vv. 30 and 31.**

CONFIDENCE IN GOD GURANTES CONTINUITY UNPARALLEL Isa. 40:30-31

A. Subtle Reality

"Even the youths shall faint and be weary and the young men shall utterly fall." (Isa. 40:30 KJV)

1. **Even the youths shall faint ...” (v. 30a)**
 - (a) This is the third verse consecutively that we encounter “faint.”
 - (1) **V. 28:** “God does not faint. (*“Neither faint nor is weary.” NKJV*).
 - (2) **V. 29:** God gives power to the faint. (*“He gives power to faint” KJV*).
 - (3) **V. 30:** Now we are reminded that even the young grows faint.
 - (b) **“Even the youth shall faint” (Isa. 40:30a)**
 - (1) This actually speaks of human weakness.
 - (2) Those of us, who have added some years, know the reality of physical changes.
 - If you are slow to accept the facts, just compare photographs of your youthful days with the present.
 - A lot of effort and money are invested to look and stay young forever but we will all experience physical and other changes as we age.
 - (c) **“Youths,”** the most vigorous young men, those in whom we expect manly strength, and who are best fitted to endure tough toils.
 - (1) They will become weary by labor.
 - (2) The lesson here is: To contrast the most vigorous of the human race with God.
 - The most vigorous young men will get weary, they will become tired but God never changes! **NEVER!!!**
 - While the powers of even the youths will fail, the power of God is unexhausted and inexhaustible.
2. **“And the young men shall utterly fall (Isa. 40:30b)**
 - (a) **“Young men”** here refers to those who were selected or chosen for any hazardous (*risky, perilous, etc.*) enterprise, or dangerous achievement in war; those who were selected for vigor and activity.
 - (b) **It surprises many to remember that the young grows faint, and the “cream of the crop” can crumble.,**
 - (1) One of my favorite boxers is known for his saying: “Float like a butterfly and sting like a bee.” He too experienced dramatic changes in his physical life.
 - (2) The people who embody the ideal combination of strength and stamina are young people but changes will be experienced.
 - (c) **The lesson is important**
 - (1) The most chosen or selected of the human family—the most vigorous and manly, will be worn down by fatigue, or paralyzed by sickness or death.
 - (2) However, the powers of God never grow weary, and that those who trust in Him should never become faint.
 - (3) Many out of bodily weaknesses are wonderfully recovered and made strong, by the providence of God.
 - Many that were feeble in spirit, fearful and faint-hearted, unfit for services, experiencing sufferings are strengthened by the grace of God.

- Those who are rational of their weakness, and ready to acknowledge they have no might, God does, in a special manner, increase their strength; for when we are weak in our in ourselves, then we are strong in the Lord.
- **2 Cor. 12:10 Amplified Bible**
 “So for the sake of Christ, I am well pleased and take pleasure in infirmities, insults, hardships, persecutions, perplexities and distresses; for when I am weak [in human strength] then am I [truly] strong (able, powerful in divine strength).”

B. Source of Sustenance/The Condition

“But they that wait upon the Lord ...” (Isa.40:31a)

1. God is our strength; our ONLY source of strength.
 - (a) Our only hope of release from adversity and renewal of commitment
 - (b) Our only hope of genuinely being revived and restoration
 - (c) Our only hope of continued victory
 - (d) Our only hope of maintaining righteousness and true holiness
 - (e) Our only hope of continuing to the end of our pilgrim’s journey
 - (f) Our only hope of standing amidst all the trials, testings and tribulations
 - (g) Etc.
 - (h) **GOD IS OUR ONLY HOPE; OUR STRENGTH; OUR ALL!!**
 - (i) See Ex. 15:2; 2 Sam. 22:33; Psa. 27:1; 28:7; etc
2. **The condition to be strengthened is to “wait upon God!” (Isa. 40:31a)**
 - (a) The words “wait upon” (v. 31a)
 - (1) **It is to properly wait, in the sense of expecting.**
 - (2) It is to wait on the Lord (Jehovah) for His help.
 - That is to trust in Him (God), to put our hope and confidence in Him.
 - Those who wait on the Lord – who maintain their faith in the midst of adversity – have access to infinite resources.
 - (b) **“Wait”**
 - (1) Briefly defining the word
 - Definition: stay where one is or delay action until a particular time or until something else happens.
 - Synonyms: stand by, hold back, be patient, hold on, sit tight, etc.
 - (2) **Impatience leads to wrong actions that come with adverse consequences!!**
 - King Saul could not wait for the prophet Samuel.
 - His **impatience** led to the abuse of authority and disobedience to God (1 Sam. 1:8-12).
 - This resulted in the loss of his kingdom (1 Sam. 1:13-23, NB Vv. 13-14)
 - **What is impatience? Impatience is refusal to wait for people or developments, frequently displaying a lack of faith.**
 - Abraham and Sarah did not wait for God (Gen. 16:1-2)
 - Esau’s impatience cost him his birthright (Gen. 25:30)

- The Prodigal Son (Younger Son) could not wait for his inheritance (Luke 15:12)
- Etc.

(c) **THE “WAITING” FACTOR IS ESSENTIAL IN TRUSTING GOD!!**

- (1) Read Heb. 11; carefully observe the abiding, enduring confidence required in both the examples noted and those not directly mentioned in the chapter.
- (2) This is the instant gratification age! We want everything done immediately!!
- (3) At this time details are not possible but note another reference **Psa. 27**
 - In this Psalm we have David’s prayer of confidence in God in regards to those who opposed him. David’s prayer is built on God’s covenant with him (see 2 Sam. 7, NB Vv.4-11).
 - **Psa. 27 . . . Note two things, briefly.**
 - **Vv. 7-12:** Publicly testifies of his confident reliance on God.
 - **Vv. 13-14:** Here he is echoing the confidence of verses 1 to 6
 - **V. 1:** Begins by expressing “**confidence in God.**”
 - **V. 14:** Closes by stressing the importance and necessity of “**waiting on God.**”
 - The good news is: “God is willing and able to deliver those who confidently trust in Him!!

(4) **WAITING IS NOT EASY!!**

- Joseph, possible age 17, was sold into slavery, at 30 he became Prime Minister of Egypt.
 - Moses was 80 years old when he led Israel out of Egypt.
 - David was anointed, possible at the age 15 or 16, but sat on the throne at 30 and even then had to flee because of his own son (Absalom).
 - Jesus baffled the Jewish leaders at age 12 but began His public ministry at age 30.
- (5) **It may appear that God isn’t answering our prayers or doesn’t understand our urgency but He is in control and remains “THE ON-TIME GOD!!”**
- (6) **Psa. 27:14 Amplified Bible**

“Wait and hope for and expect the Lord; be brave and of good courage and let your heart be stout and enduring. Yes, wait for and hope for and expect the Lord.”

(d) See also Psa. 25:5; 62:5; 123, NB v. 2; Prov. 20:20; Isa. 8:17; Hosea 12:6.

3. As noted before Isa. 40:31a ... refers to the Jews in Babylonian captivity. Their suffering was long and grievous and as far as they were concerned, they saw no hope of deliverance. The challenge here was for them to trust in God and wait on Him!!

4. **Applicable to everyone/anyone!!**

- (a) Those who feel that they are weak, feeble, guilty, hopeless, overwhelmed by trials and testing, surrounded by opposition, etc. need to put their trust in God, looking to Him for His help.
- (b) The answer in these situations is confidence in Him who is willing and able.
- (c) See Psa. 37:7, 9, 34; 69:3; etc.

5. The Hymn: "My Faith Looks Up to Thee"

Third Verse

While life dark maze I tread,
 And griefs around me spread,
 Be Thou my Guide.
 Bid darkness turn to day;
 Wipe sorrow's tears away;
 Nor let me ever stray from Thee aside.

6. Constantly abiding, keep on trusting!!

(a) **Isa. 40:31a Amplified Bible**

"But those who wait for the Lord [who expect, look for, and hope in Him] ..."

(b) See also Psa. 40:1; 130:6; Isa. 25:9; 26:8; 32:2; Acts 1:4.

(c) **When we "wait on the Lord" ...**

- (1) We will be constantly seeking Him.
- (2) We will be bound together with Him.
- (3) Foremost in our minds, hearts and will be the desire to carry out His will.

(d) Constantly abiding, keep on trusting we will apply Matt. 7:7

- (1) Ask and keep on asking.
- (2) Seek and keep on seeking.
- (3) Knock and keep on knocking.

(e) **This we refer to as "importunity" . . . persistence in your request ...**

- (1) Persistence is clearly demonstrated in Luke 18:1-8
- (2) See also Gen. 18:32; 32:26; Deut. 9:18; Matt. 15:27; Luke 22:44; John 4:49; Acts 12:5.

(3) Jacob's determination to be blessed**Gen. 32:26 Amplified Bible**

"Then He said, Let Me go, for day is breaking, But Jacob said, I will not let You go unless You declare a blessing upon me."

C. **Strengthened**

"... shall renew their strength ..." (Isa. 40:31b)

1. Defining "renew"

(a) General usage:

- (1) To flourish ... Return to
- (2) To revive ... Restart
- (3) To restore that which is decayed.

- (4) Etc.
- (b) The common Hebrew usage:
- (1) "To change, to alter"
 - (2) To revive, to renew, to cause to flourish again.
 - Example: As when a tree has decayed and fallen down.
 - It was Israel's pride to restore with better things but not according to God's will; you know the results! For example see Isa. 9. NB Vv. 8-21, highlight v. 10; they were hoping to rebuild with better materials than what were originally used but see the prophets words from God in verse 11-21.
 - Job wondered if humans can enjoy life after death (Job 14:7-9).
- (c) **"Renew" as used in Isa. 40:31b**
- (1) In essence it means: renewing or causing to revive; to increase, and to increase that which is decayed.
 - (2) It means that the people of God who trust in Him ...
 - Shall become strong in faith.
 - Shall be able to contend with their spiritual foes.
 - Shall gain victory over temptation ... strength to resist.
 - Shall withstand the storms of life ... strength during tribulations.
 - Shall be able to discharge their duties aright ... strength to labor.
 - (3) We wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against rulers of darkness (Eph. 6:12). **But He gives power to overcome!! (Rom. 8:35-39. NB v. 37).**
2. The reality of limited and unlimited resources.
- (a) Natural strength at best can be exhausted but not so the supernatural.
 - (b) Those who rely on their own strength have finite resources.
 - (c) **Those who wait on the Lord – who maintain their faith in the midst of adversity – have access to infinite resources!**
 - (1) They shall have grace sufficient for them.
 - They shall renew their strength and power as their work is renewed and new occasions arise.
 - They shall be anointed (enabled) and their lamps supplied with fresh oil.
 - Divine favor from God will be there every morning, He will be their defense (*note the word "arm" in Isa. 33:2*):
Isa. 33:2 Amplified Bible
 "O Lord, be gracious to us; we have waited [expectantly] for You, Be the arm [of your servants – their strength and defense] every morning, our salvation in the time of trouble."
 - (2) **He is ALWAYS there for His people!! ALWAYS!!!**
 - If they become foiled (frustrated, hampered) and weakened they shall recover and be strengthened.
 - Those who wait for the Lord will find energy renewed when God allows them to exchange their weakness for His strength (**2 Cor. 12:9, 10**).

3. Moral and spiritual strength is available in God

- (a) As promised in His Word: 2 Sam. 22:40; Isa. 28:5, 6; **Isa. 41:10**; Dan. 11:32; Eph. 3:16.
- (b) **Challenges do vary, situation may be frustrating, and hope of victory MAY look dim but keep on keeping on!! WAIT ON GOD!!!**
- (1) Amidst the challenges and against all odds, Esther noted: “If I perish I perish!” (Esther: 4:16).
- (2) Job: “Though He slay me yet will I trust Him” (Job 13:15).
- (3) The three Hebrew Boys, no matter the outcome, we will not worship your god (Dan. 3:16-18)
- (c) The hymn: “Stand Up, Stand Up for Jesus”
Third Stanza
 Stand up, stand up for Jesus,
 Stand in His strength alone.
 The arm of flesh will fail you;
 Ye dare not trust your own.
 Put on the gospel armor;
 Each piece put on with prayer.
 Where duty calls or danger,
 Be never wanting there.
- (d) Even the strongest people get tired at times, but God’s power and strength never diminish!!
- (1) He is never tired or too busy to listen and help!
- (2) His strength is our source of strength!
- (3) When you feel the pressures of life crushing you and you cannot go another step, remember that you can call upon God to renew your strength!
- (4) Call upon Him anytime!! He neither slumbers nor sleeps!! (Psa. 121)
- (5) No need to feel intimidated, you have free access through Jesus Christ!! (Heb. 4, NB Vv. 14-16).
- (e) **Isa. 41:10 Amplified Bible**
 “Fear not [there is nothing to fear], for I am with you; do not look around in terror and be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen and harden you to difficulties, yes, I will help you; yes I will hold you up and retain you with My [victorious] right hand of rightness and justice [Acts 18:10].”
- (f) The first verse of “Just a Closer Walk With You.”
 I am weak but Thou art strong
 Jesus keep me from all wrong
 I’ll be satisfied as long as I walk
 Let me walk close to Thee

D. Soar

“... they shall mount up with wings as eagles ...” (Isa. 40:31c)

1. The Eagle

- (a) What is an eagle?
 “An eagle is a large bird of prey with massive hooked bill and long broad wings (possible span to 6 to 7.5 feet), renowned for its keen sight and powerful soaring flight.”
- (b) They symbolize beauty, freedom, strength, power, courage, honor, pride, determination and grace.
- (c) Seven Characteristics of eagles:
- (1) They Have Powerful Vision
 - (2) They are Fearless Hunters
 - (3) They are Tenacious Defenders.
 - (4) They are High Flyers.
 - (5) They Nurture Their Young.
 - (6) They Never Eat Dead Meat ... They Seek Fresh Food.
 - (7) They Possess Vitality
2. The meaning applied in Isa. 40:31c.
 “... they shall mount up with wings as eagles ...”
- (a) They that wait on the Lord shall soar high as eagles.
- (1) The fact is that the eagles rise on the most vigorous wings of any bird.
 - (2) They rise high above, ascending apparently further towards the sun.
 - (3) They that wait on the Lord shall mount up with wings like eagles, so strongly, so swiftly, so high and heaven ward.
- (b) These believers faith in God brings results.
- (1) In the strength of divine grace, their souls shall ascend above the world, and even enter the holiest (Heb. 10:19).
 - There they “obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need” (Heb. 4:14-16).
 - See also Psa. 103:17; Lam. 3:22, 23.
 - (2) He lifted me up because I lifted my soul to Him (Psa. 25:1).
 - (3) We soar upward toward God in the strength of divine grace ... He strengthens us (Psa. 28:7; Isa. 4:10; Heb. 13:16).
3. **Eagle Christians**
NOTE:
- Boys Scout
 - In the British system the highest achievement or highest rank is the “Queen Scout;” in America this is known as the “Eagle Scout.”
 - Census shows that only 4% reach this rank of “Eagle Scout.”
 - God has made it possible for all believers to experience full salvation and all that accompanies this wonderful experience.
 - Below I will briefly discuss seven characteristics of the eagle in comparison to the Christian experience.
- (a) **Powerful Vision**
- (1) The eagle sees what’s happening below, around and above.
 - (2) The believer who waits on God

- See through the eyes of faith ... we walk by faith and not by sight (2 Cor. 5:7)
- The believer see beyond human limitations ... his hope is in God (Heb. 11:1)
- Note also 1 Cor. 2:9-16, NB Vv. 9-12.
- God reveal His mysteries to His people as He wills: Dan. 2:22; Amos 3:7; John 15:15; Eph. 1:9, 10.

(b) **Fearless Hunters**

- (1) Eagles are neither afraid nor intimidated; it never surrenders to the size or strength of its prey.
- (2) Bold and courageous in God.
 - God to Joshua (Josh. 1:6, 7)
 - Also exemplified by: (a) Caleb—Josh. 14:12; (b) Jonathan—1 Sam. 14:6; (c) David—1 Sam. 17:32; (d) Nehemiah—Neh. 6:11); (e) Etc.
 - This is our (the believer's) testimony (Psa. 27, NB Vv. 1-2)
 - **Phil. 1:28a Amplified Bible**
 "And do not [for a moment] be frightened or intimidated in anything by your opponents and adversaries ..."
 - See also Psa. 3:6; 20:7; 23:7; 46:2; Isa. 12:2.

(c) **Tenacious Defenders**

- (1) The eagles face the storms
 - When a storm comes; while other birds fly away from the storm, an eagle spread its mighty wings and uses the current to soar to great heights.
 - The eagle takes advantage of the very storm that lesser birds fear.
- (2) **The believer in God**
 - Like the eagle, when the storms hit, he soars far above the storms.
 - This is indicative of the fact that God is never affected by conditions because He is also sovereign over nature.
 - God's divine overshadowing guarantees divine refuge (Psa. 91, NB Vv. 1-4)
 - God is the Transcendent Creator and Sovereign King!! He is in control!! (Dan. 2:20-21; 5:18-21... read both chapters for context; see also Prov. 8:15-16; Rom. 13:1-2; etc.
 - In Him we are more than conquerors (Rom. 8:28-29)
 - He has power over nature (**Mark 4:35-41, NB v. 39**; Matt. 14:25; 17:27; 21:19; John 2:7).
 - Jesus is a shelter in the time of storm!!

(d) **Eagles are High Flyers**

- (1) They soar to great heights.
 - They can fly to an altitude of 10,000 feet.
 - **An eagle doesn't mingle with pigeons. Dr. Myles Monroe said: "Pigeons scavenge on the ground and grumble and complain all the day long.**

Eagles are not. They fly and make less noise waiting for opportunity to strike the next prey or glide with the current storm.”

- (2) High flyers soar – make use of time.
 - The children of Israel were grumblers, complainers, etc. and it took them 40 years instead of 11 days to enter Canaan (Deut. 1:2, 3; Num. 13, NB Vv. 25-33; Num. 14; etc. However, Joshua and Caleb were like eagles!!)
 - Don’t be like the unfaithful servant who made vain excuses (Matt. 25:14-30, NB VV 15, 25-30) ... GET BUSY!!
- (3) Rise and Shine and Give God the Glory!!
 - By settling the reality of our temporary physical life (Psa. 90:12).
 - By serious, sincere living, the demands are obvious (Eph. 5:15-16)
 - By setting the example to the world (Col. 4:5)
- (4) They that trust in the Lord rise up to the call and the challenge (Read the Book of Nehemiah)
 - Expect the Sanballats and Tobiahs and other adverse situations **but do not come down to their level!!**
 - Like Nehemiah, this should be your response:
Neh. 6:3 Amplified Bible
 “And I sent messengers to them, saying, **I am doing a great work and cannot come down. Why should the work stop while I leave to come down to you?”**
 - **Phil. 3:14 KJV**
 “I press towards the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.”
- (e) **Eagles Nurture Their Young**
 - (1) Even though eagles are known for their aggression, what is more astonishing is their ability to nurture their young ones.
 - (2) Let’s avoid the confusion
 - We do not condone wrong doing but at the same time we do not condemn anyone.
 - We are cautioned not to judge (Matt. 7:1, 2; Luke 6:37; etc.)
 - God Himself is the judge of all (Heb. 12:23)
 - We reach out to others with care and compassion (Gal. 6:1, 2; Rom. 14:1; 15:1; 1 Thess. 5:14)
 - (3) Nurturing the young (limited pointers)
 - Share the “Good News,” in Christ’s love for God and people.
 - As they mature equip them to participate with Christ in His work ... remember Christ does the making (Matt. 4:19).
 - Our nurturing should pattern after Jesus’ method of disciple making with the enabling of the Holy Spirit.

(4) Some highlighted pointers to be noted:

- Jesus challenge to Peter (**John 21:15-17**). A very important passage for the Church and its ministers. However, at this time I am briefly noting the need to nurture. (*Two pointers*)
 - Three times Peter was commissioned to **feed and tend** the flock of God (John 21: 15, 16, 17).
 - Note also, Christ showed the need to **take care of the young converts ... “feed my lambs” (v. 15)**.
- Jesus in the “Great Commission” noted the need to **“teach”** (Matt. 28:16-20)
 - Unfortunately there are so many ministries that place more emphasis on external emotion, entertainment, frenzy and excitement but not educating the people and so many are perishing for a lack of knowledge (**Hosea 4:6**; Jer. 5:4; Amos 3:10; Rom. 10:3; etc.)
 - In Matt. 28: 19-20, note three things (a) the need to **“go”** (b) The need to **“baptize”** the converts and (c)the need to **“TEACH”**
 - The cycle is simple but effective:
 - The believers **“go”** with the **“Good News”** pointing men to Jesus Christ.
 - The converts are to be **baptized and taught** in the things of God. This is a part of the nurturing process which is important to the overall benefit of the body of Christ.
 - The mature believer repeats the above steps ... and so the cycle continues (Matt. 28:19-20)
 - Teaching has been neglected, criticized, downsized, rejected, etc. but it is essential to the nurturing and maturing process.
 - Jesus Christ, Himself placed emphasis on teaching. He commenced with teaching (Matt. 4; 5-7), He continued with teaching (Mark 6:4; Luke 4:15; John 7:14; 8:2; etc.)
- **Babies do not start on solid food but milk and so do converts (1 Peter 2:2; etc.) and this is a timely, patience and requires process, as all parents know from experience.**
- Time wouldn’t allow for more details but consider:
 - The soul need to be fed (Job 2:12; Psa. 119:103; Jer. 15:16; etc.
 - Spiritual growth is necessary (Eph. 4:15; Heb. 6:1; 2 Peter 3:18; etc.
- **Nurture them in the right environment** (*Time only for limited comments*)
 - All parents know the difference it makes when children are nurtured in an environment characterized by **genuine love** ... true also to Christian nurturing.
 - Genuine love is without hypocrisy (Rom. 12:9)
 - Genuine love is the selfless, sacrificial love of God (1 Cor. 13)
 - Love demonstrates the reality of the new life (1 John 3:14)

- Love is a powerful witness to the world of our unity **in Christ** (John 13:35).
- We nurture and reach out not only to those remaining steadfast in God but to the lost and straying. In Luke 15 this is powerfully demonstrated: (a) The Lost Sheep (b) The Lost Silver Coin (c) The Lost Son.

(f) **Eagles Never Eat Dead Meat ... They Seek Fresh Food**

- (1) The Hebrews had fresh manna supplied every day except on the Sabbath day (and what was kept from the day before remained fresh for the Sabbath day).(Ex. 16)
- (2) Our needs are supplied daily (Mat. 6:11; Phil. 4:19; Luke 11:3)
- (3) There is hope through God's mercies (Lam. 3:19-30)
 - The supply cannot be exhausted because they are new every morning (Lam. 3:23)
 - Anything and everything man needs is found in God (Lam. 3:24)
- (4) Let us daily go to God for refreshing. Note there is the necessity of seeking God early each day (**Psa. 57:8; 63:1**)
- (5) Those who confidently trust in God knows that His daily provision is guaranteed. Here are a few Scripture references to consider: Psa. 23:1; 34:10; Prov. 3:5; Matt. 6:25-34; 7:11; 2 Cor. 9:8-11; Phil. 4:19; Heb. 13:5; Mal. 3:16; etc.

(g) **Eagles Possess Vitality**

- (1) Eagles remain strong, active and full of energy.
- (2) It was stated that the apostles turned the then known world upside down, inside out. This was possible because of the indwelling God!! They were filled with the Holy Spirit, the "**Dunamis**" that which all believers need.
 - **Dunamis,**" this term refers to "strength, power, or ability. From this word we get our English words "dynamite", "dynamo", and "dynamic."
 - Far more to this than we can discuss but note: "**We do not live the Christian life in our own power, but in God's. It is God's ability that makes us able to accomplish anything of value, for apart from Him we can do nothing (John 15:5). It is His strength that makes us overcomes.**"
 - You see the great difference in the ministry of the Apostles before and after Pentecost; read the book of Acts and the Epistles.
 - Note also the usage of the word "**power**" in the following: Luke 4:36; Acts 1:8; Rom. 1:20; 1 Cor. 1:22-24; 2 Cor. 4:7; Eph. 3:20-21; Heb. 1:3; 2 Pete 1:3.
- (3) Power belongs to God (Psa. 62:11) and our strength comes from Him (Psa. 28:7, 8; 46:1)
- (4) The song "God is Able" ... (partial quote)

God is able
He will never fail

He is almighty God
 Greater than all we need
 Greater than all we ask
 He has done great things.

- (5) In Him we have strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow!!
4. "They that wait on the Lord ... shall mount up with wings as eagles" (Isa. 40:31c)
- (a) In God we are guaranteed strength and vigor of purpose.
- (1) Strong and courageous devotion.
 - (2) An elevation above the world.
 - (3) Continuous communion with God!! When I commune with Thee, I commune as friend with friend!!
 - (4) Nearness to His throne. He has invited us to come boldly before the throne of grace (Heb. 4:16; 10:19).
- (b) In Him, we will soar as eagles ascend towards the sun! In Him we have the victory!!
- (1) Be reminded: **"The will of God will not lead you where His grace cannot keep you."**
 - (2) Definitely it is "Victory in Jesus, my Savior Forever!!"
 - (3) The riches of His grace extend to all!! (Eph. 3:16; Col. 1:11; 1 Tim. 1:14)

E. Steadfastly Press Forward

"... they shall run and not be weary; and they shall walk and not faint." (Isa. 40:31)

1. Spiritual Preparedness

- (a) This is fundamentally important to remember, there is a condition to be met – note again verse 31a.
- (1) "They that wait on the Lord."
 - (2) "Those who expect, look for, and hope in Him." Amplified Bible
 - (3) As noted before, in essence it means:
 - To wait on God – wait for His help!
 - To maintain your trust in Him!
 - To put your confidence in Him!
 - (4) **Challenges in life vary and sometimes hurt deeply!** (*Some repetition for emphasis*)
 - The Word of God speaks of "fiery trials" (1 Peter 4:12)
 - The Psalmist says the afflictions of the righteous are many **"but God...!!"** (Psa. 34:19).
 - Jesus said: "In this world you will have tribulation **but ...**" (John 16:33).
 - Job said: "Though He slay me yet will I trust in Him." (Job 13:15)
 - Paul in his testimony to the Ephesians elders, acknowledges his afflictions and noted: "But none of these things move me." (Acts 20:24)
 - (5) Waiting on God is not always easy but mandatory, beneficial and always the best solution.
- (b) Running and walking are similar (Isa. 40:31d)

- (1) Both propel us along the ground and both make us tired. (*propel: push/move us forward*)
- (2) Running tires us quickly and walking tires us slowly – but both produce the same ultimate result – makes us tired.
- (c) **Waiting/Trusting in God prepare you ... it gets you ready for the challenges!**
- (1) Those who wait on the Lord will run and walk with renewable energy.
- (2) The Lord will make it possible for them to go beyond the place where their natural energy would propel them.
- They will be vigorous, elevated and unwearied.
 - They will be sustained and upheld.
 - This will make it possible for them to be effective in the service to which they are called ... the victory is not by might nor by human power but by God's enabling (**Zech. 4:6**; Acts 4:3; 19:11-12)
- (3) They shall run and walk the way of God's commandments.
- They shall do so cheerfully and with brisk and eagerness (they shall run and not be weary)
 - They shall do so constantly and with perseverance (They shall walk and not faint)
- (d) There are countless testimonies of the benefits of waiting on God.
- (1) The heart invigorated (revitalized, energized, refreshed, etc.)
- (2) Their faith confirmed, seen in their firm commitment and determination to keep on keeping on.
- (3) The affections have been raised above the world
- (4) Strength has been given to bear trials without murmuring.
- (5) The ability to endure arduous (*difficult, strenuous, back-breaking, etc.*) duty without fainting.
- Enabling to pursue the perilous and toilsome journey of life without exhaustion.
 - Enabling to rise above the world in hope and peace, even on the bed of death.
 - Paul's testimony at that crucial moment in his life (2 Tim. 4, NB Vv. 6-8)
- (e) God's message to Jacob and Israel (Isa. 40:27) is applicable today:
"In your greatest distresses, continue waiting upon God, and do not despair; God is an on-time God, you will be delivered, strengthened and abundantly blessed."

NOTE: Due to time, I will briefly note only references for the following two pointers ... possible with some limited comments

2. Spiritual Progress

- (a) Definitely, those who trust in God and continue to maintain confidence in Him will be progressive.
- (b) See the following: Job 17:9; Psa. 84:7; **Psa. 92:12-14**; Prov. 4:18; 1 Tim. 4:15

(c) **Psa. 92:12 Amplified Bible**

“The [uncompromisingly] righteous shall flourish like the palm tree [be long lived, stately, upright, useful and fruitful] they shall grow like a cedar in Lebanon [majestic, stable, durable, and incorruptible].”

3. **Spiritual Power**

(a) They that wait on the Lord will be empowered.

(1) This has been seen in our discussion above. God who created the world is greater than His creation, greater than the eagle, etc. and will enable His servants to be endued with power for effective service.

- Such was the promise of Christ (Luke 24:49)
- Spirit filled believers are channels of blessings (Acts 1:8)

(2) For the faithful there is the assurance of victory and faith knows no weakness.

(b) **Note the following on “Spiritual Power.”**

(1) Gives men courage to rebuke sin (Micah 3:8)

(2) Mightier than physical forces (Zech. 4:6)

(3) Jesus is the supreme example (Luke 4:14)

(4) “Spiritual Power” accompanies the baptism in the Holy Spirit (Acts 1:8)

(5) Enables men to speak with authority (Acts 4:33)

(6) Fills life with healing influences (Acts 19:11-12)

(c) **The Necessity of Spiritual Power**

(1) Emphasized by Christ (Luke 24:44-49, NB v. 49; Acts 1:8)

(2) God’s message by His angel to Zechariah applies to all generations
Zech. 4:1-10, NB v. 6b.

(3) Fulfilled with the coming of the Holy Spirit

- Acts 2, NB Vv. 1-4
- Witnessed through the Book of Acts

(4) **May the rain be outpoured on ALL of God’s people wherever they may be!!**

- The song: “It’s Raining”

Verse 1

Oh, it’s raining, all around me

I can feel it, it’s the latter rain

Ride on Jesus, please send more rain

Until we are wet, until we are soaked

In the latter rain

- **Joel 2:23 ... Two applications**

➤ First it refers to the rainy seasons in Israel

➤ Second: Spiritually it refers to the outpouring of the Holy Spirit.

➤ Oh spread the tidings round wherever man is found ... the Comforter has come!!!

- **Now read Joel 2:28-32**

Psa. 27:14 KJV

“Wait on the Lord; be of good courage, and He shall strengthen thine heart: wait I say on the Lord.”

Excerpt from: “I’m Not Tired Yet” by the Mississippi Mass Choir

Been working for Jesus a long time

(I’m not tired yet)

Been running for Jesus a long time

(I’m not tired yet)

Been singing for Jesus a long time

(I’m not tired yet)

I’ve gotta get going it’s a mighty hard fight

(I’m not tired yet)

NO (no, I’m not tired yet) *(Rept.)*

No (no I’m not tired yet) *(Rept.)*

AN OLD CHORUS

Press along saints, press along

In God’s own way

Persecution we must bear

Trials and crosses in our way

For the hotter the battle

The sweeter the victory!

Yes, the hotter the battle

The sweeter the victory!

WAIT ON GOD ... STEADFASTLY TRUST AND CONFIDE IN HIM!!

You will be “STRENGTHENED!!”

You will “SOAR” above the circumstances!!

You will STEADFASTLY PRESS FORWARD” on your Pilgrim journey!!

I am really way overtime but I am deeply moved to share the following song with you. Done by Tramaine Hawkins taken from the album “All My Best To You.” The song was written by Quincy Fielding Jr.

What shall I do

What steps should I take

What move should I make

Oh, Lord. What shall I do

I'm going to wait
 For an answer from you
 I have nothing to lose
 Oh, Lord, I'm going to wait

I know You'll come through
 With a blessing for me
 Please Lord set my soul free
 Oh, Lord, I know you'll come through

I can't live without your help
 I am weak all by myself
 Lord please give me the strength I need
 So I can possess eternal peace

No one else can calm my fears
 God alone can wipe away my tears
 Glory to the mighty king
 In Jesus Christ I have everything

Oh there's no one like Jesus
 Who can heal broken hearts
 And put them back together again

What shall I do
 What step should I take
 What move should I make
 Oh, Lord what shall I do

I'm going to wait
 I know you'll come through

2 Tim. 2:15

KJV

"Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth."

Amplified Bible

"Study and be eager and do your utmost to present yourself to God approved (tested by trial), a workman who has no cause to be ashamed, correctly analyzing and accurately dividing [rightly handling and skillfully teaching] the Word of truth."

Lesson 2 Review Questions

- Choose the correct answer:
In which of the following references do we have “Christ’s Words of Warning and Assurance of Joy and Hope?”
(a) John 1 (b) John 16 (c) John 3 (d) John

- What’s the main subject taught in (a) Isa. 40:1-11 (b) Isa. 40:12-26 (c) Isa. 40:27-31?

- The word “faint” is used in three consecutive verses in Isa. 40. List these three verses and briefly explain how the word is used.

- What lesson is taught in the phrase “even the youths shall faint?” (Isa. 40:30a)?

- “Young men” in Isa. 40:30b refers to those specially selected for special missions, those chosen for vigor and vitality. Briefly explain what lesson is taught by the fact that they too will become weary.

6. Complete the following:

“Those who are (a) _____ of their weakness, and ready to
(b) _____ they have no (c) _____, God does, in a special
(d) _____, increase their (e) _____; for when we are
(f) _____ in ourselves, then we are (g) _____ in the Lord.”

7. Based on Isa. 40:31a (a) what is the condition to be met in order to be strengthened by God? Briefly explain what it means to “wait on God.”

8. (a) Briefly define “impatience.” (b) Give at least three Scriptural examples showing the adverse effect of impatience

9. In Psa. 27 (a) what is notable exemplified by David in this prayer? (b) Briefly note what is taught in (1) verses 7-12 and (2) verses 13-14.

10. Complete the following:

Psa. 27:14 Amplified Bible

“(a) _____ and hope for and (b) _____ the Lord;
be brave and of good (c) _____ and let your (d) _____
be stout and (e) _____. Yes, wait for and (f) _____
for and (g) _____ the Lord.”

11. Waiting on God does not mean we are passive people. Briefly, note what attitude displayed by the believer when he “waits on God.”

12. Briefly explain “renew” as used in Isa. 40:31b.

13. Complete by choosing the correct answer:

“Those who wait on the Lord – who maintain their faith in the midst of adversity _____.”

- (a) produces lots of personal power
- (b) have limited resources on hand
- (c) have access to infinite resources
- (d) have no desire to continue

14. As noted in our lesson, what do eagles symbolize?

15. List seven characteristics of eagles.

16. Briefly explain three characteristics of eagles in comparison to the believer **in Christ**.

17. Match the references on the right with their corresponding statements on the left.
 Highlights from: The Christian’s experience **in Christ**, in comparison to the characteristics of eagles.

STATEMENTS	CORRECT REFERENCE	JUMBLED REFERENCES
See through the eyes of faith		John 21:15-17
Be strong and courageous		Psa. 91
Divine overshadowing/Divine refuge		Deut. 1:2, 3
Israel’s journey from Horeb to the Canaan, should have been eleven days		2 Cor. 5:7
Feed my lambs, feed my sheep		Josh. 1:6, 7

18. Complete the following by choosing the correct answer:

“We do not live the Christian life in our own power, but in God’s. It is God’s ability that makes us able to accomplish anything of value, for apart from Him we can do nothing (John 15:5). _____ that makes us overcome.”

- (a) Only by our effort
- (b) It is His strength
- (c) Solely by our good
- (d) Only as others help

19. Briefly explain the similarities in running and walking and what is their ultimate result? (Based on Isa. 40:31b)

20. In what ways waiting /trusting in God prepares the believer? (Briefly)

21. Complete each of the following. (Taken from our lesson)

“There are countless testimonies of the benefits of waiting on God.

- (a) The heart _____.
- (b) Their faith _____, seen in their commitment and determination to keep on keeping on.
- (c) Their affections _____ the world
- (d) Strength has been given to _____ trials without murmuring.
- (e) The ability to _____ duty without fainting.

22. Complete the following by choosing the correct answer:

“In your greatest distresses, _____ _____
_____, and do not despair; God is an on-time God, you will be
delivered, strengthened and abundantly blessed.”

- (a) continue waiting upon God
- (b) seek help from anyone
- (c) trust in your luck
- (d) be overcome with fear

23. We briefly noted the benefits of “Spiritual Power;” what was observed in the following references?

- (a) Micah 3:8 (b) Zech. 4:6 (c) Luke 4:14 (d) Acts 1:8 (e) Acts 4:33 (f) Acts 19:11-12

We will discuss the answers to as many questions as possible in our next class.