

Eagles' ON WINGS



Being off balance is a very unnerving experience. We like to feel we are steady and in control. However, throughout the ministry of Jesus he was trying to teach his disciples that they were 'designed to lean.' Yet even at the Last Supper it was very apparent that Peter had not got the message.

As Jesus was speaking about what was going to happen to him, Peter boldly declares, "I am ready to go with you to prison and to death." To which Jesus answers, "Peter, before the cock crows today you will deny three times that you know me."

Bold words from Peter, full of self reliance and within hours he had fallen on his face. After the resurrection, once again there is Peter saying, "I'm going out to fish." Full of his own independent plans, his fishing trip is a complete failure and again he has tripped over.

Jesus is always full of forgiveness and willing to restore Peter, but he is also trying to teach him that, "Apart from me you can do nothing." (John 15:5)

We are soon to discover that Peter was learning the lesson

– he managed to stay in the upper room for 10 days waiting for the coming of the Holy Spirit – which was a good start. He then told the crowd that what they were seeing was what Joel prophesied, "This is the Holy Spirit poured out on all people. A new power has arrived and it is time to stop trusting in self and to call on the name of the Lord."

By the time Peter wrote his letters his self reliance had gone. In 1 Peter 5:10 it says, "And the God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast." Sounds like he is learning to lean.

In 2 Peter 1:3 he declares, "His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness...so that you may participate in the divine nature and escape the corruption in the world caused by evil desires."

It's not your power or experience that counts - always remember, you were designed to lean.

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Charles Writes:

