

Thermal Columns

*He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak.
Even youths grow tired and weary, and young men stumble and fall;
but those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength.*

*They will soar on wings like eagles;
they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.*

Isaiah 40:29-31 (NIV)

It is fascinating to observe eagles as they deliberately fly over a highway. What the bird has learned is that if they fly over a dark patch of earth they will find nature's elevators in the sky.

Thermal columns are columns of warm air rising to displace the cooler air above them. If the bird flies into a column of rising air they will circle in it and rise without effort to a much higher elevation in the sky.

The bird then soars in the direction it wants to go and by the time it has lost significant altitude it hopefully finds another thermal to ride back up to a higher elevation and repeat the process.

The reason birds like eagles use thermals as elevators to climb high in the sky is that it conserves their energy to ride the thermal. The next time you see an eagle soar-

ing round and round over a highway try to see when it stops rising and begins to soar somewhere. You will then be able to see the direction it wishes to go using thermal power.

Isaiah uses the picture of soaring eagles to illustrate the person who comes to the Lord for daily strength to face the realities of that particular day. By rising up in the strength of the Lord we are enabled to move confidently through the hours of each day.

Strength from the Lord comes through prayer, singing praise in our hearts to the Lord, reading Scripture, learning the promises contained in the Bible and believing what the Lord has promised us as His people.

Today try reading Isaiah 40-43 and listen to the promises that the Lord has waiting for you to ponder

and trust. For example:

Isaiah 41:10,13 (NIV)

So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand. [13] For I am the Lord your God who takes hold of your right hand and says to you, Do not fear; I will help you.

Bring these words to the Lord in prayer and call on Him to make the promises contained in these verses real and active in your life right now. Then enter the day trusting that the Lord is going before you and shall hold you close to His heart. Our problems will never exhaust the infinite strength of the Lord.

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