

July 24, 2022

The Lord wants you to experience real and abundant life:

Isa. 40:25-31 *To whom will you compare Me? Or who is My equal?” says the Holy One. Lift up your eyes and look to the heavens: Who created all these? He who brings out the starry host one by one and calls forth each of them by name. Because of His great power and mighty strength, not one of them is missing. Why do you complain, Jacob? Why do you say, Israel, “My way is hidden from the Lord; my cause is disregarded by my God”? Do you not know? Have you not heard? The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He will not grow tired or weary, and His understanding no one can fathom. 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. (NIV)*

I want to revisit my favorite scripture this morning. As we continue looking at the *life* that the LORD has given us, we see a picture drawn by the words of the prophet Isaiah. Those who wait or hope in the LORD. This phrase is significant to every believer. The Hebrew phrase means *to rest, hope and eagerly wait* for the provision of the LORD.

Resting in the LORD brings *inward* strength. It is a *renewing* strength. It doesn't lose any power in its use, but instead, grows our inward being more and more into the likeness of the LORD. We are supernaturally strengthened by this relationship. **Eph. 6:10** *Finally, be strong in the LORD and in His mighty power. (NIV)* This shows us the origination of this power. It is found only in Him. It is His strength that is manifested in us.

Resting in the LORD brings *upward* strength. As the eagle rests upon the updrafts of the wind, he does not have to labor, but instead, settles easily onto the place that will not only hold him, but also lift him. That is why James reminds us in **James 1:2** *Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds. (NIV)* It is in this resting that we find our joy and strength as He lifts us up.

Resting in the LORD brings *outward* strength. This is the godly progression. This is how God works in us. He works from the inside, out. If the heart is not right, neither will anything else be right. We usually try to put on a good face, but our heart betrays us. If the heart is not right, neither will anything else be. This inward, upward and outward strength brings us to the place of strength that we can be use with. We will be renewed. We will be uplifted. We will be allowing Him to do His work in us. **Eph. 6:10** *Finally, be strong in the LORD and in His mighty power. (NIV)* And this then gives us the *onward* strength to face whatever comes our way.

Dear LORD, thank You that we find our completeness in You. Without You, we would have nothing, but with You, we have everything. Thank You for Your strength. In Jesus Name, Amen