

FLYING LIKE THE EAGLE

Reaching One's Destiny In Christ

Gareth Evans
First Published 1998
Re-published 2012
Victoria, BC



GARETH EVANS MINISTRIES

Introduction

The purpose of this booklet is to encourage you to learn to fly as the eagle so that you might reach the heights the Lord calls you to – your destiny.

In the part of Canada where I live, we often see the wonderful sight of eagles soaring overhead.

With wingspans of over five feet, they are so majestic as they rise with little effort, on wind currents that carry them far into the sky. Usually, the female eagle will lay two or three eggs, but I am told on good authority, that there was once an eagle who laid a clutch of six eggs! She was so happy as she sat on them while her mate stood on the edge of the nest, his chest held out and his beak held high with pride.

One day he noticed another eagle sitting on her nest a short distance away. “Hello,” he squawked in *Eaglese*, “Have you some eggs also?” The reply was in the affirmative with the added information that there were two eggs in that nest. He tried to be polite but could not refrain from pointing his wing to his mate on her eggs, and saying the one word, “six!”

A little while later the six eggs hatched and the nest was full of noisy little eaglets. The mother and father eagle were so busy keeping their brood happy with morsels of salmon but were very contented as they saw them growing until they filled all the room available in the nest. As mother continued to feed her young, father spent much of his time building on an addition to the family home in order to accommodate his growing family. He was far too busy to notice his neighbours as they cared for the offspring in their nest. However, one day as the father eagle was taking a brief moment to rest, he noticed that his neighbours were no longer rushing about to feed their two eaglets, so he called over, “Hello, again. I do not see your little eaglets there with you. I hope they are all right. Nothing wrong is there?”

“Oh no!” came the reply, “They’re out flying!”

Eagles were born to fly – not to be kept in the nest!

Isaiah 40:31

God’s People Are Comforted

³¹“They that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.”

Introductory Prayer:

“Oh Lord, teach us to fly like the eagle so that we might soar into heavenly places with you.”

It is God's desire that His people become all they should be - as eagles soaring into heavenly places with Him. However, so many of us have never learned to fly, being content instead to stay in the comfort of our nests, digesting the latest Sunday morning pulpit meal. Some have tried to flap their wings as they have seen or heard of other believers soaring on high but find themselves more like the farmyard chicken than the soaring eagle! Why does it seem to be so difficult to fly like the eagle if that is God's will for us and the desire of our hearts?

Some Reasons Many Fail To Fly

1. They were born 'wounded.'

When we were born again of the Spirit of God, our spirits became alive to God, we were transferred from the kingdom of darkness to the kingdom of light, taken from death to life. We were made new creatures, "old things passed away, all things became new" (2 Cor. 5:17). However, our bodies did not suddenly change - they continued to die, one day at a time, and the physical results of sin continue in our bodies. Similarly, our souls were not instantly healed from the wounds they had suffered; wounds such as rejection, abuse, fear, trauma, producing insecurity and low self-esteem. Until these are dealt with - in a spiritual way - our 'flying' will be limited.

2. They have made decisions contrary to God's principles of life.

Many of those decisions have life-long consequences. For example, we are taught not to be "unequally yoked with an unbeliever" (2 Cor. 6:14) but there are many believers who have married nonbelieving spouses. Others are living in debt, not realizing that they are now serving mammon, an alien God! The Lord cannot call them to His service while they are subject to the demands of their creditors (Luke 16:13). Many are carrying unforgiveness in their hearts towards others while still more are carrying offences and prejudices. The Lord can still use all these in ministry but 'flying' is limited.

3. They have never understood that they should be flying!

We have become so satisfied with the normalcy of our Christian life that we have never questioned if there is something more. We are content to be fed each Sunday by a pulpit message, augmented by some nice 'worship' music on our car radio and a serendipity book by the latest Christian celebrity. We have been so desensitized by the weak,

materialistic Christianity of much of the western world, that we can no longer hear our bridegroom say, “Arise my love and come away” SoS. 2:10).

We have loved this world too much and its cares and dirt have weighed us down.

4. They have had their wings clipped so that they should not fly too high!

Many of our leaders have not understood their responsibility to teach us to fly. Instead, many churches and parachurch organizations are run in a way similar to the systems of the world, where the organizational structure is pyramidal with power emanating from the top downwards, and the operative word is **control**. Jesus said “You are not to be like that!” (Mark 10:43). As a pastor, I am greatly challenged that my work is to “equip the saints for the work of the ministry” (Eph 4:12). ie; to teach them to fly!

I am called to make disciples, not build bigger nests for the pre-existing ones - and disciples should fly as God intended them to!

Reaching Our Destiny

Using the story found in 2 Kings 4:1-7 as a guideline we shall consider **six steps** towards reaching our destiny in Christ.

2 Kings 4:1-7

The Widow’s Olive Oil

¹The wife of a man from the company of the prophets cried out to Elisha, “Your servant my husband is dead, and you know that he revered the Lord. But now his creditor is coming to take my two boys as his slaves.”

²Elisha replied to her, “How can I help you? Tell me, what do you have in your house?”

“Your servant has nothing there at all,” she said, “except a small jar of olive oil.”

³Elisha said, “Go around and ask all your neighbours for empty jars. Don’t ask for just a few. ⁴Then go inside and shut the door behind you and your sons. Pour oil into all the jars, and as each is filled, put it to one side.”

⁵She left him and shut the door behind her and her sons. They brought the jars to her and she kept pouring. ⁶When all the jars were full, she said to her son, “Bring me another one.”

But he replied, “There is not a jar left.” Then the oil stopped flowing.

⁷She went and told the man of God, and he said, “Go, sell the oil and pay your debts. You and your sons can live on what is left.”

1. Vision

The outlook was very bleak for this woman. She could see no way out of her dilemma for circumstances had overwhelmed her. If we are going to come to our life destiny in Christ we have to have a vision that sees beyond our circumstances. As the Psalmist declared, we must “lift up our eyes unto the hills from whence comes our help” (Ps. 121:1). Our worldview is going to affect the way we live. When all around us seems to be in disarray, we must recognize that this is the way of the world. Jesus said, “Lift up your eyes for redemption draweth nigh!” (Luke 21:28).

Our self-view is important. Do you truly believe that the Lord can use you for His glory - or do you believe the lies of Satan who would cause you to set your sights much lower?

Consider Elisha at the siege of Dothan. He prayed for his servant, “O Lord, open his eyes!” (2 Kings 6:17) when the latter was full of fear.

Consider David when Absalom would take away his kingdom. Psalm 3 records his prayer. From a bleak outlook in verse one to a confident perspective in the third!

¹Two men in a prison cell, staring through the bars.

³One only saw the darkness, the other saw the stars!

2. Burden

Not only was her outlook bleak but her heart was also heavy. She was about to lose her two children. What weighs most heavily upon your heart? Do the needs of this world weigh you down? What do you feel most passionately about?

Jesus tells us to take his burden “which is light” (Matt. 11:30), and Paul encourages us to “carry our own burden” (Gal. 6:5). There is a burden that the Lord would place on each one, a burden that he has designed us for. The Christian burden is not a matter of weight, it is a matter of **relationship**. When we are yoked together with Jesus, in the right relationship with Him, the burden He calls us to carry is light. However, we shall not know what His burden is for us until we see this world through His eyes and feel His burden.

Jesus' burden was for: injustice, poverty, hurting people, abortion victims, young people, lonely seniors, poor and sick, missions, Sunday school, prayer and intercession, teaching or discipling, widows and orphans, and more - refer to **Appendix I** to see more.

A boy was seen climbing a hill with a crippled lad on his back. A passer-by remarked, "My, you have a heavy burden there!" The boy replied, "That's no burden! That's my brother!"

3. Giftings

So, what do you have in your home, in your hand? All she had was a small bottle of oil.

You must have some **natural ability**, talent, training, or possession. Eg; carpentry, drama, education, experience, finances, languages, mechanics, medical, music, organizational skills, personality, public speaking, secretarial, teaching, etc - refer to **Appendix I** for more.

We must **lay these down** before God and use them for his glory. Moses had to lay his rod down (a sign of his training and authority) before he took it up again as the rod of God. Gideon had to dismiss his army before God won a great victory through him. Abraham had to be willing to sacrifice his only son before God would make a great nation of his descendants.

Then, we all have some spiritual giftings, calling, ability, given to us by the Holy Spirit.

Elder, evangelist, pastor, priest, prophet, teacher, leader, compassion, mercy, serving, exhorting, giving, ruling, hospitality, word of wisdom, word of knowledge, faith, gifts of healing, miracles, discerning of spirits, tongues, interpretation and so forth - refer to **Appendix I** for more.

This is the "bottle of oil" given to every believer! All who are born again of the Spirit of God have the equipping gifts of the Holy Spirit to carry that burden which the Lord would place upon them.

4. Ministry

The prophet gave the widow a work to do - a ministry to her neighbours.

The role of church leaders is to equip or train the saints for the work of the ministry. It is the Lord's desire that every one of us should be involved in ministry. To that end, He has

equipped us both with natural and spiritual enabling. He has **not** equipped us to carry burdens that aren't of His design! It is the Pharisee who puts burdens upon men that they are unable to bear. Sadly, there are many church leaders today who do the same! However, the Lord's burden in ministry is light. If you are in ministry, make sure that it is one in which you are carrying the Lord's burden, with His enabling. You can work outside your calling, ie; carry another burden, but do so *lightly* - as a servant. This might well be a time of preparation or training for the greater ministry that the Lord would set upon you.

Do not let another manipulate you into carrying his burden, out of guilt or for promised rewards. We must recognize the ministry of others, such as the pastor whose ministry is to train you, release you and watch over you. We shall never have the freedom to fly with the authority of the eagle until we are under the authority of those the Lord has set as overseers. Jesus exercised His ministry because He was a man under authority. We must understand the relationship between authority, responsibility and accountability refer to **Appendix II.**

5. Anointing

As the widow poured the oil, the Lord multiplied it to be sufficient for all the vessels.

Oh that we would see more evidence of God's anointing on our church work!

This is a sovereign work of the Lord; there is nothing we can do to manipulate this except to do His work in the way He has planned it. He wants us to *see* this world through His eyes, to catch His *burden* for our church/neighbourhood/workplace/country etc., to *minister* in that burden using the *giftings* He has provided us with - and then He will put His *anointing* upon the work. We cannot expect Him to anoint that which He has not called us to do!

It's about time we did **God's work in God's way!**

If you read 2 Samuel 6, it is the account of David's frustration when he tried to bring the ark back to Jerusalem in a manner contrary to God's ordained way. He tried to copy the method that the Philistines had used – the world's methods will never accomplish what only the anointing of God's Spirit will do! God has shown us His methods – now we must seek to do His work in His way.

Luke 4:18-19

Jesus Rejected at Nazareth

“Jesus said, ‘The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me for He has anointed me to preach good news to the poor, to proclaim relief to the captives, the recovery of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed and to preach the acceptable year of the Lord.’”

If He needed to be anointed, how much more do we?

6. Destiny

Instead of losing her children and being destitute, the widow was able to sell the oil and live off the proceeds for the rest of her life! Not only was she blessed but so were all her neighbours. That is God’s purpose for us - that we might be to the praise of His glory (Eph. 1:12), that men might see our good works and glorify the Father (Matt 5:16).

This is abundant living, soaring like the eagle on the winds of the Spirit. This is fulfillment!

Philippians 1:6

Thankfulness and Prayer

“He who began a good work in you will perfect it until the day of Jesus Christ.”

What is God’s destiny for you? Only God knows your potential - but will you reach it? He leaves the choices to you. He wants you to fly like the eagle.

Isaiah 40:31

God’s People Are Comforted

³¹“They that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.”

Conclusion

So you want to fly like the eagle?

Clarify your vision and burden, and then ask your pastor or spiritual adviser if you display the giftings needed. They may be able to direct you or release you into a ministry. Do not rush ahead of God into a ministry for which He has not prepared you. For not all are “prophets, teachers, miracle workers...” (1 Cor. 12:29).

Appendix I

Expanded List of Burdens and Giftings

Experience:

Driving and piloting, airman or mariner, business ability or position, computer and media, travel and literature, science and research, good marriage, some specialized knowledge; etc.?

Spiritual Gifts:

Showing mercy, helps, government, deacon, love, joy, peace, gentleness, goodness, meekness or teachableness, self-control or temperance, etc.?

Ministries:

Singles, adults, Sunday school, promise keepers, divorcees, latch-key kids, students, international students, praise and worship, church bulletin, the developing or 'third' world, street people, holidaymakers, women's ministries, small groups, local government, prayer for Israel, unemployed, Christian media, etc.?

Write some of your own!

Appendix II

Authority, Responsibility **and** Accountability

Anyone in leadership has a **responsibility** both to those who released them into leadership and to those whom they lead.

There is also **accountability** to those we serve.

A leader cannot delegate responsibility to another - it always remains with the leader. Only **authority** can be delegated - with the right to make decisions and act on them (and to make mistakes!)

There are many levels of delegated authority.

- Do it - and don't report back.
- Do it - and let me know what you did.
- Let me know your intentions, and go ahead until you hear from me.

- Let me know your intentions but don't go ahead until you hear from me.
- Investigate all alternatives and make a recommendation to me
- Give me all information available and I will decide.

Know what your authority is, your responsibility and your accountability. All three should be present in a good 'job description'.

Appendix III

Learning to Follow so That You Might Lead

Before any of us can lead others, we have to learn how to follow. David became King of Israel only after spending many long years in the service of another, King Saul. He waited for God's time!

The disciples had to learn to be followers of Jesus before they could become the apostles, leaders of the early church.

A good follower must:

- Recognize another's calling
- Adopt another's vision
- Carry another's burden
- Labour for another's success
- Rejoice in another's honour

Only when you are comfortable being a servant, will God call you out to be a leader.