



Bird's Eye View

At some time in each of our lives we will be in a storm! The storm may be in our family, marriage, financial, health or literally like Hurricane Harvey devastating parts of Texas and Louisiana with epic floods and destruction. The Bible tells us that in the last days before Jesus returns there will be storms, earthquakes etc. such as we have never seen before! These storms will come with more rapid intensity like a pregnant woman in travail. (1 Thessalonians 5:2-3) Matthew 7:24-27 tells us that whoever hears and does Jesus' sayings will be like a wise man who built his house on a rock and when the floods came and the winds blew and beat on his house...it did not fall because it was founded on the rock.

None of us are immune to the storms but what perspective will we have when affected by them?? The Bible says in Isaiah 40:31a, "But those who wait on the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings of eagles." Here are some interesting facts about eagles in the midst of a storm:

- * Intense winds cause the eagle to fly higher because of the lifting power in thermal updrafts.
- * Intense winds enables the soaring eagle to have a greater view of what is going on below the clouds. The eagle has vision up to 5 kilometers. If humans had eagles' eyes, we would see an ant crawling on the ground from the roof of a 10-story building! We need to have the Lord's eyes to see His perspective in the storm!
- * Intense winds enables the eagle to soar for longer periods of time in the wind's updraft. It's the Lord's strength not our own that we will have to rely on!!
- * Intense winds enables the eagle to fly over 100 miles per hour which is twice the speed in fair weather.
- * Intense winds enables the eagle to go higher above distractions and harassment from other birds. Eagles fly with other eagles only or they fly alone. It's important to hang out with people of like faith when we are in difficult times.
- * Intense winds enables the eagle to use less effort as it glides in the winds and because of the design of the wings and feathers it actually soars in a calm atmosphere. Jesus may literally calm the natural storms but will always calm the storm going on inside us if we will let Him!!

So, if God used an eagle as an example (it could have been a chicken or blue jay) maybe we need to con-

sider this when we are in the midst of a storm. If we would go up higher into His Presence we would be able to get a better view of His plan when everything is swirling around. We would learn to lean entirely



on His faithfulness in the loss of everything and soar above all the calamity effortlessly! I don't think the Lord would teach us about this if it were not possible to at-

tain such heights in Him!! In His presence we are less distracted as we focus only on Him and His plan. His Presence is our hiding place just like it says in Psalms 91. As we wait in His Presence we receive clear instructions and strength. I believe that there is no safer place in the storms of life and even in the natural storms except in God's arms. Psalms 91:1, "He who dwells in the secret place of the Most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty. I will say of the Lord, "He is my refuge and my fortress; my God, in Him I will trust."

I'm not saying that this will be easy but we do have Holy Spirit as our Helper, Comforter, Teacher, Intercessor, Standby and we do have a choice to panic or pray. So, question.....Who is sleeping in the back of the boat when we are in a storm?? (See Matthew 8:23-27) He will never fail or leave us and He loves to see us operating from a place of faith instead of fear. Even if we are shaking in our boots we will cling to Him in faith and He will calm the storm!! He is ever faithful and true!

Sending my love to you and clinging to Him!!!

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I can hardly believe that Grace Place is now in it's 17th. year!!! When I started Grace Place September 2001 the Lord didn't tell me a few details like children's ministry, soup kitchen, Israel etc. What a challenging adventure it has been! When He gave me the name "Grace Place" 3 years before I literally started it, He knew that it would be His endless supply of grace that would enable me to do what He asked of me! I could never have done anything apart from Him and all of you who have volunteered, donated of finances and your prayers! To God be all the glory....great things He has done and will continue to do!!!



Our Current Needs

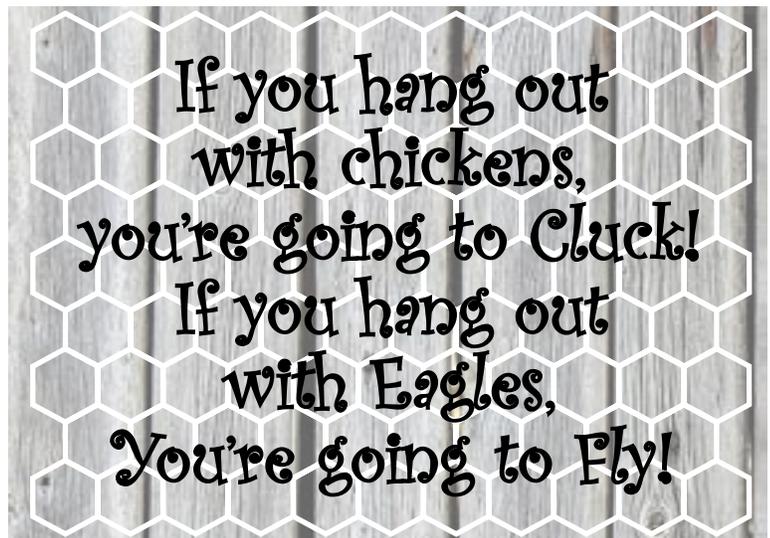
Finances

(We are great need at this time)

16 Oz. Styrofoam cups
Triple divided Styrofoam plates
Napkins, plastic forks and spoons

Winter clothing and shoes
Blankets, linens & Household items

Canned goods, dried beans
Rice & Pasta
(for emergency food bags)



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