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Learning to Soar by Walking First

By Tim Dilena

â€œBut they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faintâ€ (Isaiah 40:31, KJV).

This is one of the most amazing verses in the Bible, and we read it all wrong. We fixate on â€œthey shall mount up with wings as eaglesâ€ and skip over the walk and run portions. But flying like an eagle is not our goal. Actually, most days we may not feel like flying â€™ but we can take one step at a time with our Savior.

Paul says, â€œWalk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the fleshâ€ (Galatians 5:16). Notice he says, â€œwalkâ€ in the Spirit, not fly in the Spirit. We donâ€™t start out at a sprint or in the air as the eagle.

Christianity is a walk of faith, not a run of faith. It may sound boring but itâ€™s effective. â€œFor we walk by faithâ€ (2 Corinthians 5:7). Walking means doing basic, simple things to honor God â€™ things such as deciding to pray, going to church, telling your loved ones you love them, making breakfast for your family, picking up your Bible to read. Every act of obedience is a step and every step will turn into your Spirit-walk.

When you take one small step of obedience, God blesses it. You may not feel like raising your hands in worship to the heavenly Father but you put forth a little effort because you love him â€™ and God does the rest. You may not feel like being kind or reaching out to someone, but you do it because you have compassion and want to please Jesus.

Paul instructs us to take just one step at a time. Put one foot in front of the other and these steps become our walk. Those who walk are the ones who last. Those who try to run and fly usually tire out and are never seen again. Dietrich Bonhoeffer, German pastor and theologian, said it well: â€œOne act of obedience is better than one hundred sermons.â€

Today, determine to let God lead you step by step as you pursue your walk with him. Walk by faith (2 Corinthians 5:7); run the race with endurance (Hebrews 12:1); and then soar like an eagle (Isaiah 40:31).

After pastoring an inner-city congregation in Detroit for thirty years, Pastor Tim served at Brooklyn Tabernacle in NYC for five years and pastored in Lafayette, Louisiana, for five years. He became Senior Pastor of Times Square Church in May of 2020.