

The Eagle-winged Believer

We have a remarkable question of the disciples, and answer of our Lord, Luke 17:37. The question is, Where, Lord? The answer is, "Wheresoever the body is, thither will the eagles be gathered together." Christ has been speaking of the days of great tribulation a-coming; and the meaning of the question seems to be, Lord, where shall these that fear thy name, fly in these days of trouble and distress? Where is Christ to be found, to whom the believer shall fly like an eagle to his prey? Where, Lord? Wherever he be, believing souls must be at him. The eagle mount up on high: she flies higher than other birds: she makes her nest on high, on some inaccessible rock. Spiritual eagle-winged believers, they fly high, even to the Rock of Ages.

May we not see ground to lament, that so few are mounting up on eagle's wings at this day. Man's mind are no-ways with God; "God is not in all their thoughts." A word of warning to you that never mounted up to heaven towards Christ. Alas! What shall we say to you? Up you must go, or else go down to the

bottomless pit: God commands you to mount. The reason why you do not mount up, is, because you are wilful; "You will not come to me that you might have life," John 5:40. Your weakness flows from your wilfulness: if the weakness of your will were taken away, then you would mount up with ease.

Do what you can to fly up; if you cannot fly, endeavour to run without wearying; if you cannot run, endeavour to walk without fainting; if you cannot walk because of your broken leg, then will you creep to the Physician without it, and hold out the broken leg, the withered arm to him; if you cannot creep, will you cry to him: "He hath not said to the seed of Jacob, seek ye me in vain"; if you cannot cry, will ye look to him: "Look to me, and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth"; if you cannot look to him will you long for him; for, "He satisfies the longing soul"; sigh, sob, and groan after him. And if, after all you think you can do nothing, because of your absolute weakness; then, O will you wait on the Lord, and you shall renew your strength, and you shall renew

your strength; wait on him in the use of means... "Wait, I say, on the Lord."

Ralph Erskine (1685-1752), a minister of the Secession Church in Scotland preached on the text, "They shall mount up with wings as eagles" (Isaiah 40:31) at Kinclaven, the Sabbath evening after the administration of the Lord's Supper on June 1st, 1735. The following has been taken from that sermon.