

## Flying Lessons

One day when the baby eagle is three months old and about 80% of its full-grown size, mama and papa start behaving very strangely. Mama stomps into the nest squawking and throwing all the soft fur and feathers out of the nest sweeping it clean. With all the softness gone the nest becomes uncomfortable. With all the comfort gone the baby eagle must learn to balance itself, to stand.

As if this comfort removal was not enough, Mama jumps into the nest and starts pushing that baby to the edge of the nest. Then suddenly without warning, Mama pushes the baby over the edge. This begins a free fall toward the rocks below, and the baby eagle feels totally helpless. She flaps her young and clumsy wings until she is so weak, she can no longer flap. She is doomed to be dashed on the rocks below.

However, Papa hovering overhead, **with perfect timing**, swoops down with incredible speed and rescues that baby eagle spreading his wings underneath the baby, just before she crashed into the ground. Just in the nick of time. **You see, an eagle cannot fall faster than her father can fly.**

This pattern is repeated as many times as is necessary until the baby eagle realizes that by spreading her wings and catching the wind current, she can soar like Mama and Papa. What seemed cruel has turned out for her good.

Mama and Papa celebrate their child's achievement by locking talons and doing acrobatics in the air. They endured their little one's anger and protests and fear so that this baby could grow to maturity and soar like an eagle.

The lesson of the eagle is one of trust and faith, giving our lives over to God and trusting. **And trusting...** "Think of this: **'The LORD your God is with you,** he is mighty to save.

*He will take great delight in you, he will quiet you with his love, he will rejoice over you with singing.' Zephaniah 3:17.*

*Consider it pure joy my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. Perseverance must finish its work, so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything. James 1:2-4*

*No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it. Hebrews 12:11*

If you are wondering what is happening, what God is up to, and why He has taken all the feathers from your nest, are you wasting your sorrows? Can you look forward and see the good that will come, provided you are willing to be trained by your trial? I want to reassure you that your heavenly father has not forgotten you. He never takes his eyes off you.

*But the eyes of the Lord are on those who fear him, on those whose hope is in his unfailing love. Psalm 33:18*

"Can you envision the Lord your God rejoicing over you with singing? We rejoice over God with our songs of praise, but to think that **He rejoices over us** with singing and takes great delight in us! What joy! What incredible joy! Think of the parent eagles clasping talons and performing a dance of joy in the sky when their little one SPREADS HIS WINGS AND SOARS. And then think of your heavenly Father **rejoicing over you!** Nothing else truly compares to that kind of eternal and internal joy."