

1 The Secret of the Unweary

- “How we can finally kick the Red Bull habit!”

2 Soar on Wings Like Eagles

- 28 Have you not known? Have you not heard? The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable. 29 He gives power to the faint, and strengthens the powerless. 30 Even youths will faint and be weary, and the young will fall exhausted; 31 but those who wait for 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. (Isaiah 40:28–31 NRSV)

3 Waiting Upon the Lord

- No doubt, “Soaring on Wings like Eagles,” is one of the most beautiful passages in the Bible.
- Interestingly enough, it is a promise—a beautiful one at that.
- The implication is that since God is all powerful, full of understanding, knows the needs of his people, we can put our trust in Him.
- However, why do we have to wait?
- Can’t God come swooping down like an eagle and renew our strength and take care of our problems immediately?

4 Church Camp

- Julian Tarbert use to manage a church camp every summer.
- Each spring involved a lot of work to get the lodge, cabins, and grounds ready for the summer.
- One spring he ended up with two employees.
 - One was a vigorous young man who just graduated from High School and the other was a retired farmer with a heart condition.
 - Guess which one accomplished the most work each day.

5 Church Camp

- Yes, the farmer. The young man was willing enough, but the farmer, even with his heart problem, always got more done.
- One reason was that he just knew how to do things.
 - He’d had a lot of experience from running his farm, and he didn’t need much direction.
 - He also knew how to conserve his energy.
 - He’d have to rest occasionally, but when he was on his feet, he did what needed to be done with a minimum of exertion so that he wasn’t expending all his energy in a burst.

6 Church Camp

- On one occasion, there was a new camp sign to erect.
- The young man put his strong back into the job and dug for all he was worth.
- When he got tired, the farmer took his turn on the post-hole digger as well, but when they finished, the young man was all used up for the day.
- The farmer was planning to go help his son with the evening milking of the cows.

7 Isaiah 40

8 Context

- The reference “to mounting up with wings like eagles” in Isaiah 40 may have been a reminder of how God had rescued the exiles’ ancestors.
- In Exodus 19:4, God speaks to the Israelites after leading them out of slavery in Egypt, saying, “You have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagles’ wings and brought you to myself.”
- In the Isaiah 40 context, God is about to be the eagle of rescue again, leading the descendants of the exodus Israelites out of exile.
- So, if they trust God, they can carry on, not like the exhausted and defeated, but like those who run steadily, without growing weary.

9 Life Can Wear Us Down

- We too, have a journey though life that can be exhausting and sapping, for there’s no shortage of things that wear us down.
- If we pay attention to the news, we can hardly keep a bounce in our step.
- Closer to home, there is stuff that undermines our vigor as well.
 - We have problems at work,
 - Difficulties in our relationships,
 - Worries about our children,
 - Unwelcome interruptions in our plans, and
 - Unexpected health difficulties.

10 Waiting on the LORD

- In the morning, O LORD, you hear my voice; in the morning I lay my requests before you and wait in expectation. (Psalms 5:3 NIV)
- Be still before the LORD and wait patiently for him; do not fret when men succeed in their ways, when they carry out their wicked schemes. (Psalms 37:7 NIV)
- Refrain from anger and turn from wrath; do not fret — it leads only to evil. . . . but those who hope in the LORD will inherit the land. (Psalms 37:8–9 NIV)
- Wait for the LORD and keep his way. He will exalt you . . . (Psalms 37:34 NIV)

11 Waiting on the LORD

- I wait for you, O LORD; you will answer, O Lord my God. (Psalms 38:15 NIV)

- I wait for your salvation, O LORD, and I follow your commands. (Psalms 119:166 NIV)
- I wait for the LORD, my soul waits, and in his word I put my hope. (Psalms 130:5 NIV)
- Since ancient times no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, who acts on behalf of those who wait for him. (Isaiah 64:4 NIV)

12 Waiting on the LORD

- . . . it is good to wait quietly for the salvation of the LORD. (Lamentations 3:26 NIV)
- But you must return to your God; maintain love and justice, and wait for your God always. (Hosea 12:6 NIV)
- Keep yourselves in God's love as you wait for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ to bring you to eternal life. (Jude 1:21 NIV)

13 Roll the Ugly

14 Fretting . . . only leads to Evil

- Fretting is defined as: to worry, to be anxious, feel uneasy, be distressed, be upset, concern oneself, agonize, sigh, pine, brood, and eat one's heart out.
- It can also be defined as: troubled, perturbed, alarmed, and panicked.
- According to the Bible, it only leads to evil (Psalm 37)
- In other words, worry and fretting lead us to where we often make rash words and decisions, but also cause us to do things that are evil and frustrate the work of God in us and in our circumstances.

15 The Devil's Schemes

- For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. (Ephesians 6:12 NIV)
- In other words, there are intelligent invisible entities working out plans to destroy the work of God in our church, in our families, in our marriages, and in us as individuals.
- His chief method to accomplish this is to create misunderstandings and suspicions (usually brought on by disobedient people) that produce anxiety that result in unspiritual attitudes and actions.
- If you forgive anyone, I also forgive him. And what I have forgiven — if there was anything to forgive — I have forgiven in the sight of Christ for your sake, 11 in order that Satan might not outwit us. For we are not unaware of his schemes. (2 Corinthians 2:10-11 NIV)

16 The Devil's Schemes

- The conspiracy theory we should be really aware of is how the enemy is working right now—trying to use our worries, frustrations, and disappointments to get us where we don't wait on God, but give in to evil and sin against the LORD.

- When our enemy is successful the following happens:
 - We become a servant of the devil.
 - God's promises are greatly frustrated.
 - We blaspheme God's name.
 - We run and get tired as there is no bounce to our steps.

17 Waiting on God

- Waiting on God is simply being patient for God to answer our prayers or fulfill His promises.
- It implies that instead of freaking out and giving into temptation, we by faith remain faithful because our hope is in God and in His word (His promises).
- So when we wait on the LORD, we testify to the following.
 - The Lord has the power to fulfill His word.
 - The Lord is good as He intends to use His power to fulfill His word.
 - We have faith in God.

18 The Secret of the Unweary

- The Christian walk is not a sprint, but a marathon—an endurance race where we compete not against each other but the track.
- If we cross the finish line and compete according to the rules, we get the prize.
- But what would happen if we make this race of ours harder than it has to be?
- We could end up spending a fortune in Red Bull, Five Hour Energy, and all the other kinds of energy drinks that are on the market.
- Why don't we instead learn to wait upon the LORD and as we wait for his grace, remain faithful to His word.
- Then we will soar on wings like eagles and run and not be tired, walk and not be faint.