

THE EAGLE PERCEIVES

Isaiah 40:27-30

Introduction: Since the beginning of recorded history the eagle has served as a symbol of power, freedom, and immortality. The Egyptians used eagle masks in religious ceremonies. North American Indian tribes considered the eagle sacred. They carved the figure of an eagle on their totem poles to represent relationship between their families and the majestic predator.

On January 20, 1782, the Continental Congress adopted the Bald Eagle as the central figure of the great seal of the U.S.A. What I think is funny is that Benjamin Franklin thought the turkey should be the national symbol. He did not think the eagle was not majestic even though. Can you imagine the turkey on our money.

Several states also use the eagle in their state seal. The eagle is truly one of the most majestic creatures God ever created. We use the eagle as a symbol of achievement, for example, for a young man to earn the eagle merit in the Boy Scouts is considered one of the highest honors he can attain.

Much to the regret of our nation, the eagle is an endangered species. Until recent years it was almost extinct but by the careful management of wildlife officials, the species has been somewhat revived. Man is the eagle's worst enemy.

Like the Boy Scout, eagle sainthood is the highest achievement a Christian can attain. But much to the regret to Christianity, eagle saints have also become an endangered species. The devil, world and our old nature is the worst enemy to becoming a eagle saint.

I believe that through careful concern and cultivation of God's people, the eagle saint can be revived. These messages are designed to do just that. If we will hear and heed these principles, then we can become an eagle saint. James 1:22-24

"But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves." "For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass:" "For he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was."

My primary purpose in this message is to introduce you to the eagle and the eagle saint. Let's see what the eagle perceives, pursues, and partakes.

I. THE EAGLE PERCEIVES WHAT IS BEST.

The word "perceives" means to see and understand. Let's see first how good an eagle sees and it will help us understand how he understands.

All eagles are renowned for their excellent eyesight, and the bald eagle is no exception. They have two centers of focus, that allow the birds to see both forward and to the side at the same time. Bald eagles are capable of seeing fish in the water from several hundred feet above, while soaring, gliding or in flapping flight. This is quite an extraordinary feat, since most fish are counter-shaded, meaning they are darker on top and thus harder to see from above.

Eagles, like all birds, have color vision. An eagle's eye is almost as large as a human's, but its sharpness is at least four times that of a person with perfect vision. The eagle can probably identify a rabbit moving almost a mile away. That means that an eagle flying at an altitude of 1000 feet over open country could spot prey over an area of almost 3 square miles from a fixed position.

Since he has great vision. This leads us to these facts. The eagle is a meat eater from the day he is born. But he is a picky eater as well. Unlike his cousin the vulture, he will not

Eagle Saints: An Endangered Species
Message #1

eat rotten meat. He has a built in knowledge that tells him to seek out that which is best for him because his diet affects his ability as the majestic creature he is. So he seeks out that which is alive in order that he might retain his strength for his diet is his source of strength.

This brings to eagle saints. Before going any further, being an eagle saint does mean you have been saved for many years. You can be a young believer and be an eagle saint. The eagle saint has a built in knowledge that tells him what is best for him. It was built in at the time you were saved. That day you got a new nature. It is to take priority over the old nature. He too gains his spiritual strength from his diet. What he takes into his mind affects his ability to function as the creature he was regenerated to be. Therefore he must seek that which is alive.

When Jesus was tempted of Satan in the wilderness, he said in Matthew 4:4, "**Man does not live by bread alone but by the very word of God.**" And Hebrews 4:12 tells us why. "**The word of God is quick and powerful and sharper than any two-edged sword piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, joints and marrow and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.**" To the eagle saint, the word of God is that live meat which nourishes him or her in their daily walk with God.

You will go no higher in your walk with the Lord than you will read your Bible, paying attention what its says. You should spend time in prayer. You will grow when you are at church hearing the Word of God. Then you will grow by telling others about Christ.

Conclusion: Today you and I should desire to be like the eagle. Look what is good for you. You would not eat out of the trash can. But you will eat out of the trash can of the world and wonder why you are not growing in Christ or growing deeper for Christ.