 必如鹰展翅上腾

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「但那等候耶和华的，必重新得力。他们必如鹰展翅上腾，他们奔跑却不困倦，行走却不疲乏。」以赛亚书4:31

鹰展开翅膀上腾的时速可达60英里，在猎取时下降的时速可以快至100英里，在地上行走的小鹿突然发现自己悬在高空中！

在圣经中神常用鹰的翅膀来比喻祂大能的膀臂。凡属基督的人，「疲乏的，他赐能力；软弱的，他加力量。」以赛亚书4:29. 故，克服在属灵疲惫和信心动摇的途径，就是求告神、等候祂的拯救。

「等候神」就是走在神的后面，不是跑在神的前面。拦阻我们等候神的是我们的不信：不真信神有能力解决我们的困境，也不真信神爱我这个罪人。我们若要能耐心等候神，就得把受帮助的盼望放在神那里：相信祂有能力、也相信祂的爱使祂不丢弃我们：不是因为我们可爱，而是因为我们是祂的。这样，我们从年幼到年老都必得着力量来跑完全程。教会也是如此。

自上主日庆祝教会十六周年后，我们开始步上第十七年了。过去十六年神给我们许多考验，要看我们各人是否真爱祂和祂的教会，是否愿意回应祂给我们的召唤，同心挑起时代的使命。感谢圣灵帮助我们在这些火炼的试验中看见个人和教会全体需要改正的地方。除了改正教会制度外，我们归纳出两个关键性的功课：

首先，教会的牧长执和事工负责人，要向教会做出「舍己」的委身，要甘心背上各样的十字架：丢弃个人的抱负、理想、舒适、骄傲、情谊…等，才能够顺服基督、同心合一地照着主的托付拓展主的教会，这样才能避免发生个人坚持按自己的理想建造自己的教会！

第二个功课，就是肢体要正视自己是否爱主的这个教会。不爱看得见的教会，就不能爱看不见的基督（约翰一书4:20）。你是否愿意做出牺牲来促成教会健全成长？各人若按自己的意愿砌自己门前的那面墙——单做自己要做的，那么我们是爱自己，不是爱教会。弟兄姐妹，让我们放下个人的得失，齐心等候按永恒旨意成立众教会的基督，这样真理浸信教会必在神的旨意中入鹰展翅上腾！

***Mount Up On Wings Like Eagles***

*Wrtten by Rev.Zheng on 19 March 2023*

“*but they 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 40:31 (ESV)

Eagles could fly at a speed of up to 60 miles per hour. They could dive at a speed of 75 to 100 miles per hour to grab their prey with their sharp talons.

The soaring of an eagle is a spectacular sight! God used the mighty wings of eagles to represent His mighty power. For those who belong to Jesus, “*He gives strength to the weary, and increases the power of the weak*.” Isaiah 40:29 So the way to overcome spiritual burnout and a wavering faith is to call out to God and await His deliverance.

To *wait for the LORD* means to walk behind God instead of rushing ahead of Him. The greatest hindrance to waiting for the LORD is disbelief, that is, when we do not truly believe that God has the power to resolve our situation, nor God truly love a sinner like me. So for us to be patient with God, first we ought to put our hope in God, to trust that He is able and He is willing, that He loves us, not because we are lovable but because we are His. Then from young till old, we will receive timely and sufficient strength to hold on to our faith. It is the same for the church.

We have begun our pilgrime on the 17th year. In the past 16 years, God has put us through a few severe tests to see whether every individual truly loves His church, i.e. willing to respond to His call for the church in one heart. We thank the Holy Spirit for helping us to see some areas of improvement for us individually and corporately as a church. Besides the church systems, we have drawn two essential spiritual lessons:

The first lesson is for the pastors, elders and deacons to “deny oneself” for Christ’s church. The leadership must be willing to carry the cross of putting aside personal ambitions, ideals, comfort, pride, friendship…etc. so as to submit to Christ and build Christ’s church according to Christ’ entrustment as one man. No individual should insist on building the church according to one’s own ideals.

The second lesson is for every member to re-examine oneself whether he or she truly love the church. If we cannot love the church that we can see, then we cannot love God whom we cannot see. (1John 4:20) Are you willing to make personal sacrifice to contribute to the growth of the church? If each of us is only passionate about building the wall in front of our house, i.e. we only serve in the ways we want to, then we are loving ourselves, not the church.

Dear brothers and sisters, let us put aside our personal gain and come together in one heart, and wait for Christ who builds up His churches according to the eternal decree of the Father. If we can do that, Truth Baptist Church will soar on wings like eagles in God’s will!