

# 1. Living at High Altitude

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Subtitle: Rise above the level of the world

- We are at the beginning of a new year
- Many people are still reeling from all the stresses of last year
- God does not want us to start this year tired, deflated or discouraged
- He wants to:
  - strengthen us
  - impart courage into us
  - instil fresh hope and renewed vision for our lives

**Isaiah 40:28–31 (NKJV)** *Have you not known? Have you not heard? The everlasting God, **the Lord**, the Creator of the ends of the earth, **neither faints nor is weary**. His understanding is unsearchable. **29 He gives power to the weak, and to those who have no might He increases strength.** 30 *Even the youths shall faint and be weary, and the young men shall utterly fall, 31 **but those who wait on 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.****

- God never faints or gets weary (Ps.121:4 He neither sleeps nor slumbers)
- He gives power to the weak (Strong's Lexicon: "to the fatigued")
- He increases the strength of those who have no might
- **but those who wait on 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

These are timeless (but conditional) promises from God that are available to anyone who wants to receive these specific blessings.

The key to activating these wonderful promises is:

***"But those who wait on the Lord..."***

We wait on the Lord each time we:

- spend time worshipping Him
- spend time in prayer
- spend time in God's Word (reading, listening, meditating, confessing)
- spend time God in His Presence to fellowshiping with Him

So why don't you make/renew your commitment right now to:

- be(come) a true worshipper of God throughout 2021
- be(come) a man/woman of prayer
- be(come) a man/woman who hungers after God's Word
- seek after His Presence often (daily and hourly)

**Acts 3:19–20 (NKJV)** *Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, so that times of **refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord, 20** and that He may send Jesus Christ, who was preached to you before.*

- Those who find their way into God's Presence are refreshed and revived

**Isaiah 40:28–31 (NKJV)** *But those who wait on the Lord shall renew their strength; They shall mount up with wings like eagles.*

Somebody once said:

“Christians can either scratch with the chickens or fly with the eagles”.

It has been said that eagles are not affected by storms – the more the storm rages, the higher they fly.

**“The higher the eagle flies, the calmer it gets”**

The moral of the story:

If your life has been particularly turbulent in recent times, you may need to change altitude and fly higher!

**Examples of low altitude living:**

- a. Judging others
- b. Gossiping
- c. Complaining

**2 Corinthians 12:20 (AMP)** *For I am fearful that somehow or other I may come and find you not as I desire to find you, and that you may find me too not as you want to find me—that perhaps **there may be factions (quarreling), jealousy, temper (wrath, intrigues, rivalry, divided loyalties), selfishness, whispering, gossip, arrogance (self-assertion), and disorder among you.***

The Corinthian believer had been, by and large, living at “low altitude”. Their selfishness weighed them down and hindered them from rising high.

### **Quote by Eleanor Roosevelt:**

Great **minds** discuss ideas;  
average **minds** discuss events;  
**small minds** discuss people.

### **Examples of high altitude living:**

- a. Forgiving people (and yourself)
- b. Forgetting (past disappointments, hurts and setbacks)
- c. Forbearance (longsuffering, patience [with people], slow to avenge)

**Galatians 5:22 (NIV)** *But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, **forbearance**, kindness, goodness, faithfulness.*

Mature Christians have learned to live by the Word of God rather than by their feelings.

**Matthew 7:13–14 (NKJV)** Enter by the narrow gate; for **wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction**, and there are many who go in by it. **14** Because **narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life**, and there are few who find it.

- Don't do what the “many” do
- Do what the “few” do

### **Sort out your priorities:**

- You can't do everything in 2021
- You must do certain things in 2021
- You should do other things in 2021
- You wish you could do certain things in 2021

**Matthew 6:33 (NKJV)** *But seek **first** the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.*