



The Word @ Home

February 5, 2012

Scripture: Isaiah 40:21-31 and Psalm 147:1-11

Thoughts: Starting in chapter 40, Isaiah makes a welcomed shift from judgment to comfort.

But those who wait upon God get fresh strength.

They spread their wings and soar like eagles,

They run and don't get tired,

They walk and don't lag behind. (The Message - Isaiah 40:31)

Do the phrases taken from this scripture sound familiar to you? Recently, I found this verse, written as an overlay across a beautiful rendering of an eagle in full flight, gracing the cover of a sympathy card. These same words, written as a hymn for group use in corporate worship, are just as powerful when used as a one-to-one personal condolence to a friend.

Words assuring fresh strength were part of the joyful promise found in Psalm 147. It's interesting to note that Psalm 147 is the first of the last five Psalms, all beginning with the word "Hallelujah," commonly translated as "Praise the Lord." Based on the promise in these words, it is easy to appreciate how comforting these words were for the early listeners and for us today. It's easy to appreciate why these words were welcomed with a joyful expression of Hallelujah!

Those who fear God get God's attention;

They can depend on his strength. (The Message - Psalm 147:11)

Verse 11 reminds us that God has a personal message for all of us: A personal, close relationship is His gift, His great concern, to those who respond to His love.

Discussion: Do our own words sometime seem inadequate? Yet God's Word says it all—the hallmark of His comfort. How can we get closer to His Word? How can we bring others closer to His Word?

Activities: Think of ways to refresh the many ways you could offer encouragement or Christ-like comfort to another person.