

Let everything that has breath  
praise the Lord. Praise the Lord!

Psalm 150:6

## Praise Points

with Karen Holland

# Dare to Soar

*No, we speak of God's secret wisdom, a wisdom that has been hidden and that God destined for our glory before time began [to lift us into the glory of His presence]. None of the rulers of this age understood it, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. However, as it is written: No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has conceived what God has prepared for those who love him— but God has revealed it to us by his Spirit. The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God.*

1 Corinthians 2:7-10

*See, the former things have taken place, and new things I declare; before they spring into being I announce them to you.*

Isaiah 42:9

## Dare to Soar

Karen Holland

To see with the eye of the Spirit  
Place all your hope in the Lord  
Trust Him completely  
He sends forth His truth and light to guide  
Up His Holy Hill into His sanctuary  
With singing lips, in His name glory  
Spread your wings in anticipation of the wind  
Within and without, be made holy  
Willingly let go of the ground  
On the wings of praise  
By the breath of His Spirit  
Be lifted higher

Soar ...

Let your eyes be open to see from on high  
View with the eye of the Spirit  
On the wings of praise  
Ascend His Holy hill  
Hidden things revealed

No eye has seen  
No ear perceived  
No mind the glorious riches of Christ has conceived  
But to those who love the Lord  
Who trust in Him completely

All things are opened

You never know how high you can fly  
Or how far you can see  
Unless you anticipate His wind and spread you wings  
Place all your hope in the Lord  
On the wings of praise dare to soar  
Lion of Judah roar!

The Lord gave me this image of worship recently. A beautiful eagle is lifted high, soaring in the clouds. The royal Lion of Judah is in the background, supplying the wind (the roar), the power, and the breath of the Spirit beneath the eagle's wings. Let's take a closer look at this image.

The soaring eagle, it's the eagle of (Isaiah 40:28-31), the promise that those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength and not grow weary. They will soar on wings like eagles. Placing all hope and trust in the Lord, waiting on Him, this is how one soars. This is also a key step in worship, in entering the Lord's courts, His sanctuary, the secret place, His manifest presence (Psalm 100; Psalm 91). He inhabits, is enthroned on the praises of His people (Psalm 22). The Lord himself guides those who trust in Him to this place where He dwells (Psalm 43). The Lord prepares and draws those who have clean hands and pure willing hearts to this secret place (Psalm 24).

Singing praises to the Lord, glorying in His name, this is a wonderful way to seek His face, to renew strength, and to soar (1 Chronicles 16:8-11). The soaring eagle is lifted high by the power of the wind beneath its wings. Gliding on the power of the wind, eagles seem to soar effortlessly. The eagle usually spends much more time soaring than flapping its wings. This is probably because soaring requires much less of the eagle's energy. Eagles know how to 'flow' with the power of the wind. This is why when flying long distances, eagles often soar on thermals to cover the longest distance using the smallest amount of energy. Soaring on these thermals, eagles also reach great heights.

I love this image of worship! Like the eagle soaring to the heights, the journey to the secret place is also compared to ascending a hill, or being set on high (Psalm 24:3-4, 27:5-6, 40:2, 69:29, 91:14; Habakkuk 3:18-19). He enables me to stand on the heights (Psalm 18:33). The Lion of Judah, the King of praise, supplying the breath, the wind to soar on. It's the breath of Holy Spirit that enables us to be lifted up and soar on the wings of praise to the secret place on high. The word 'spirit' in both Hebrew and Greek means 'breath' or 'wind'. On the Day of Pentecost the Holy Spirit came with the sound of mighty rushing wind (Acts 2:2). One could imagine the roar of Lion of Judah sounding similar. Like the eagle we need 'wind' to soar, to reach great heights.

Also like the eagle, range of vision is increased by being set on high. Vision, seeing with the 'eye of the Spirit' happens in the secret place. For example, in Ezekiel's vision of the man with the measuring rod, he was set on high, on a very high mountain. He was brought there to see what the Lord had to show him (Ezekiel 40:1-4). The Mountain of the Lord is a place where the Lord teaches His ways, that we may walk in His paths; a place of vision (Isaiah 2:2-3, Revelation 21:10). David knew this, that is why he set aside some of his musicians for prophesying (1 Chronicles 25:1). Paul also knew this, he made it clear that appropriate times for the prophetic word need to be available in a meeting of the church (1 Corinthians 14:26). Prophecy was probably found in the context of praise and singing. Worship and focus on the Lord sensitizes us to His voice and His presence among us. One appropriate time to bring a prophetic message might be immediately following a time of singing and praise. Paul makes it clear that this should be an orderly process (1 Corinthians 14:30-33); he is equally clear that the prophetic gift should not be despised (1 Thessalonians 5:20).

The opening verses to the article highlight the Lord's promises to reveal hidden things to us by His Spirit. He promises to give us hidden wisdom. Doesn't it make sense that this would be done in the secret place where the Most High dwells, where His presence rests? Take a look at the four living creatures around the throne (Revelation 4). They were covered with eyes, front, back and all around. These eyes see in every direction. It's no coincidence

that these four living creatures are always praising and prophesying. They never stop saying: "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty, who was, and is, and is to come."

Will you spread your wings and anticipate the wind, the roar of the Lion of Judah? Will you trust Him completely and dare to soar on the wings of praise? Come into His presence; let Him teach you His ways. Lift your voice in praise and see that the Lord is good. See what He has prepared for those who love Him.

*Do you not know? Have you not heard? The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He will not grow tired or weary, and his understanding no one can fathom. He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak. Even youths grow tired and weary, and young men stumble and fall; but those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.*

Isaiah 40:28-31

*Give thanks to the LORD, call on his name; make known among the nations what he has done. Sing to him, sing praise to him; tell of all his wonderful acts. Glory in his holy name; let the hearts of those who seek the LORD rejoice. Look to the LORD and his strength; seek his face always.*

1 Chronicles 16:8-11