

EAGLE SAINTS

Tonight I would like to read something from a book that Brother Bill Britton wrote many years ago because not only is it still very relevant today, generally speaking, it's particularly relevant to some things that are happening in our little group. Before anyone who hears this decides that I need to be *warned* about some of the things Bill Britton taught, let me assure you, I'm well aware of his *errors*. The fact that he got into error can *never* change or annul the many truths he was given by the Lord.

I remember when we first made a tract called "The Harness Of The Lord" available, along with our other writings, a brother who had been fairly close to us got very upset about it. He wrote me a *long* letter explaining all the errors that (in his opinion) brother Britton had propagated. Of course, many of the things he pointed out *were* true and I was already aware of them. However, other things that he accused Bill of teaching were not true. In his mind, he had lumped brother Britton together with *today's* Kingdom Now teachers and he was accusing him of teaching everything *they* now teach.

I wrote him a long letter and tried to assure him that, not only was I aware of the various errors brother Britton taught, we were not promoting his *ministry* per say, as a result of making *The Harness Of The Lord* tract available. As a matter of fact, when we first made the tract available to those on our mailing list, we added a disclaimer which said that even though we felt this *particular* message was pure, we could not endorse Bill's overall ministry because it contained too much mixture.

I pleaded with the brother to read the tract and let it challenge him, but he refused to open his heart because he was convinced that Bill Britton was a false prophet. Moreover, he ended his fellowship with us because we refused to denounce Bill as a false prophet and stop offering that tract in our catalog.

I commend this brother's zeal for maintaining doctrinal purity, but I'm afraid he's going to be very *lonely* in the kingdom (if he has his way) because when it's all said and done, he'll look back and realize that nobody was able to measure up to his standard of doctrinal purity—except himself.

If anyone listening to me hasn't yet read *The Harness Of The Lord* tract, I encourage you to read it. For those who have already read it, I encourage you to read it *again* and ask the Lord to show you which kind of horse (Christian) you really are. I personally know people who are utterly convinced they are the *obedient* horse in that story when in fact they are the rebellious horse. They have deceived themselves and are viewing themselves through a lense of *false* reality.

The fact is, brother Britton gave many messages that are just as anointed and relevant today as they were the day they came forth. One of them was called "The Eagle Saints". The Lord showed Bill how much the life of the natural eagle *parallels* the way God deals with potential sons.

I say "potential" sons because not every Christian is, or will be, a full grown "son" of God. Of course, we're all "sons" in the sense that we are all God's "children" but *spiritual children* are not going to set creation free. Spiritual children are not going to rule and reign with Jesus, or sit in the Father's throne in the next age. Those privileges (and many others) are reserved for those who grow up in the spirit and become *spiritual men*. They're reserved for those who have "made themselves ready" for the marriage of the Lamb (the First Resurrection). They're reserved for those who follow the Lamb "whithersoever he goeth" and are willing to do whatever it takes to be an overcommer.

The Eagle Saints

By: Bill Britton

“God has a lot to say about the eagle and what He has to say is very significant in relation to His saints, the Body of Christ, those who are called to the High Calling of God in Christ Jesus. Eagles are symbolic of a certain class of Christians: "*But they that wait upon the Lord. shall mount up with wings as eagles*" (Isa. 40:31). The “mounting up” process is important and necessary to the Sons of God who are to be caught up to the throne of God, conformed to the image of the Son of God and rule and reign with Him forever. But it only comes to those who will wait in His Presence until the Glory that shines from His face changes them from the image of the earthly into the image of their Heavenly King.

Not everyone who enjoys the blessings of God's grace and who believes in Jesus Christ to the saving of their souls will destroy the idols of earth that stand in the temple of their hearts, and pay the price to go on with God to heavenly places. But God has predestinated those whom He hath foreknown, and He has purposed that His glory shall be manifested in them. What opportunity! What glory! What a high calling! Praise God for His unsearchable riches, and for His love and mercy to the sons of men!

Chickens or Eagles?

Chickens also are symbolic of people. The only time chickens are referred to in the Bible, Jesus used them as a type of those people in Jerusalem who could not hear His message nor heed His call. They traveled in crowds, in broods, and they were *earthbound*. They kept their eyes upon the things of this world, scratching out a bare existence, and never lifted their heads to see Him who is from above. They ate the handouts that were cast to them and searched greedily in the crowded barn lot for more to fill their bellies, much of it unclean. For the chicken is by nature an unclean bird, and will eat dead things and unspeakable filth. They are bound to their existence on the right and on the left by fences, and are satisfied.

But not the eagle. For he has inherited a nature that cannot and will not survive in the confining captivity of the barnyard fowl. To be happy and to fulfill his purpose in life, he must be free to soar in the wide open spaces among the clouds of heaven. It seems lonely up there, for there are not many who will dare to rise to such heights, but the eagle does not care, for it is not in his nature to mingle with the multitudes or the majority.

Characteristics of Eagle Saints

There is much we can learn about our heavenly calling as we consider what the Bible says about eagles. Deuteronomy 32:11 tells us how the young eagle gets his introduction to the practice of soaring in the heavens. Let the eagle saints hear carefully. It says that the mother eagle "Stirreth up her nest," "fluttereth over her young," "spreadeth abroad her wings," and "beareth them on her wings."

The times has come when the young eagle must leave the nest and strike out on his own. But looking down from the dizzy heights of the mountain peak, he is not ready to begin such a new and dangerous enterprise. He has "not passed this way before," and he is reluctant to start out. So the mother eagle begins making things uncomfortable for him in the nest. The nest is so soft, so safe, so comfortable, and he is satisfied to remain there. None of this business of "trying out your wings" for him. So the mother eagle "stirs up the nest." She tears up his soft bed,

breaks the twigs until the jagged ends stick out. In other words, she begins to make life *very miserable* for him in *the place* that once had seemed so nice. Oh, saints of God, does it seem that God is dealing harshly with you? Is He tearing up your soft, comfortable nest? Does the place in God that once met such a need in your life now seem rough, tight, and uncomfortable?

What is happening? The Lord is getting ready to push you off into heights you never dreamed of. Does the jagged edges of that *which once* was such a comfort to you now stab you with grief and pain? Have you been wondering what the trouble was, and perhaps doubt that you were even in the will of God?

Doubt no longer, but expect in faith for the next great work of God to come forth in your life. It is not the wrath of God trying to destroy you. It is the love and wisdom of our God making you willing to take another step in the plan and purpose of God. We, by nature, love security. So the Lord has to make us utterly sick of our "nest" in order to make us willing to launch out into pioneer spiritual journeys in the heavenlies.

The Flutter of Wings

Still, the young eagle does not leave the torn up nest. So the mother eagle begins to "flutter over her young." In other words, she begins beating him with her wings. The wings under which he *once hid* from all danger *have now become* his greatest enemy, it seems.

What a terrible turn of events!

To escape those terrible wings, he climbs to the side of the nest, and as she spreads her wings abroad, he hops upon her back. Where she goes now, he will go. For the nest has ceased to be the safe, warm home it once was.

See the mother eagle now as she soars high into the sky, with the little eagle hanging on for dear life. High above the clouds she goes, and suddenly, without warning, she dives out from under the little eagle, leaving him hanging on nothing. He screams with fear as he tumbles through the air, but instinctively his wings stretch out and begin trying to catch the air. Down, down, down, he falls as his untried wings fail to function enough to hold him up. When it looks like all hope is lost and he is about to crash on the rocks below, the mother eagle swoops under him and bears him up on her wings.

What a relief! Back into the heights of heaven they soar, on her wings. What a glorious feeling! But just as he thinks all is well and he is sitting on top of the world, the bottom drops out again. And the process starts all over again. This time his wings begin to operate a little better. They become a little stronger until finally he learns how to catch the currents of air and soar by himself, needing no longer the mother to catch him from falling.

The Rebel Falls

But sometimes a little eagle is taken from the nest and *refuses* to fly. He will not try his wings. He just waits each time until the mother eagle catches him and bears him back unto the heavens on her wings. Time and again the process is repeated until the mother eagle is convinced that there is *no hope* for him, that she cannot teach him to launch out on his own.

Now if he were a chicken, someone would watch over him, feed him and protect him. Not so the eagle. Either he learns to soar for himself or he starves to death or becomes a prey of wild beasts. Knowing this, the mother eagle takes him high into the heavens for one last ride. Then with a *wild screech of pain* and disappointment, she dives out from under him and flies away, leaving him to drop to his death on the rocks far below.

Note: Although brother Bill is *primarily* referring to the work of the Holy Spirit *directly* in a person's life, there are times when the Holy Spirit uses mature believers to disciple younger believers and the more mature saints are to encourage the young Christians to "fly" (walk and live in the Spirit).

Many times God has used us that way and a result, we have experienced the same *pain* a mother eagle feels when she has to let a rebellious eaglet fall to his death because he refuses to fly. The phrase "screech of pain" is a good description of what goes internally when God says it's time release a younger believer so he can go out and fulfill the desires he *refuses* to lay down.

I believe Jesus experienced that same "screech of pain" when He beheld the city of Jerusalem from the Mt. of Olives and *wept* over it. The very city that was chosen to be the dwelling place of God, the very people who were called to function as a light to the nations, were about to *reject* that calling and that privilege and as a result, they would experience untold suffering for generations to come.

Eagle saints have a special training all their own. The flutter of God's wings make us think sometimes that He is going to beat us to death. But the Bible says that if we do not receive His chastisement, it is a good sign that we are not Sons. When we are finally willing to leave the nest, trusting completely upon Him, then He takes us into heights of glory never before experienced.

Well, everything seems wonderful, and we are rejoicing in our new and glorious experiences. Then suddenly the bottom drops out, and He is not there. As we drop from the dizzy heights of glory to the depths of gloom and despair, we flop our feeble wings desperately and unsuccessfully, and wonder why God has left us to perish like this. Suddenly He is there! And as He bears us on eagles wings back into the heavens, our strength and joy returns. Only to find that the process must be repeated. Over and over, until finally we find ourselves able to use our God-given "wings" and be sustained on high by the power of His strength within.

But some that are offered Sonship, as eagle saints, refuse to move into this realm. They rebel against the processing of God. They resent being placed in the furnace of fire. They love the nest on high and the safety of His wings, but they despise the chastening, the discipline, the necessity of learning to stand alone in the heavenlies.

He is patient. He is longsuffering. He works with them, giving them chance after chance. But some will not learn, will not yield their rebellious spirits to His will. So He finally leaves them to fall to destruction on the craggy rocks of a carnal earthly nature. You have seen them and so have I; and I have wondered how those who once soared among the stars could have fallen so low and come to such an end. How could some who had such revelation, such marvelous gifts and ministries, have come to the place where they could accept such heretical doctrines of devils; or cheapen their ministry and sell out the gift of God for fame and fortune?

It has happened and you know it. It does not make the true revelation of the Spirit any less true; nor does it take away from the reality of the gift that God had given them. But it had been better if they had remained as chickens. They prayed to be eagles and God answered their prayer. But the tests brought out a rebellious nature that would not submit *wholly* to the dealings and discipline of the Holy Ghost and they fell.

Now a chicken may fall off his roost, or off the chicken house, but he never falls far because he never rises to great heights. But when an *eagle* falls, he falls a long way and *is seen by many*. But it is necessary, beloved, for there must be no rebels among those who make their nests on the tops of the mountains and soar above the storm clouds.

Learning to Move in Heavenly Places

Those who rule with Christ must rule from the heavens because that's where the throne is. Many sing "I'll fly away," and dream of a rapture, by and by, that will carry them from this sin-cursed earth, past the moon and into the wild blue heavens to some geographical spot in this physical universe, to a big supper all set and loaded with goodies for them to eat. And they know *nothing* of the purposes of God for His eagle saints who will actually be caught up to the throne to rule and reign. But the time is at hand. And the Spirit is unveiling and revealing hidden secrets from His Word to those who are called to the High Calling of God in Christ Jesus. So He is teaching us to move in heavenly places. And sometimes it is terrifying. But His glorious Presence is there, comforting and reassuring. Praise God!

The chicken yard is very confining. You can go so far and no farther. The Plymouth Rocks stay in the Plymouth Rock pens, and the Rhode Island Reds remain in their allotted place. It would be scandalous if Farmer Brown's hens slipped over to Farmer Jones and ate his corn, or laid their eggs in the wrong place. It doesn't matter if you are in the Methodist pen, or Baptist, or Pentecostal, or whatever. You may cackle and crow about the advantages in your particular chicken yard over the others, but just be sure and remain within your set confines.

Not so the eagles. No chicken yard could hold him. Put him in a cage and he will wither and die He can only live and find happiness in the freedom of the uncovered heavens. There is lots of room where the eagles gather. Unlimited revelation. Truth flows like a mighty River. No creeds, by-laws, or rigid statement of beliefs to separate the body of Christ. Sweet fellowship with all who dwell in this place, and no divisive man-made boundaries exist. Heavenly worship, gifts of the Spirit, and glorious deliverance are the order of the day here. The dull monotonous routine of a "chicken-yard" religious system is forever a thing of the past for those who rise on the wings of eagles into this place in God. What a variety of glorious treasures in the Holy Ghost there are for those who dare to believe, and who "are the called according to His purpose."

Note: Unfortunately, this is one way people get deceived. It's true, there are no man-made by-laws or statement of beliefs to separate those who are walking and living in the heavenly realm. It's true, no divisive man-made boundaries exist to hinder fellowship between those who dwell in this realm.

However, there are God-made ordinances and there's a spiritual order that must be maintained or else there will be chaos and spiritual confusion. Also, the command to separate from those who walk in error, who walk in idolatry, or refuse to die to their own life so they can come forth in Christ, applies especially to those of us who have left the Church System.

Unfortunately, Bill Britton **assumed** there should be no division between those who had heard and accepted the call to Sonship. Even though he never fully "came out" of the Church System, he had the same "**we and them**" mentality so many of us out here still have. We assume that "we" don't ever have to separate from each other; that we only have to separate from "them"—that is, those who remain in the Church System or (in Bill's case) those who don't have the vision of Sonship.

The Ishmaels and the Isaacs

Some cannot believe this to be true. "We know what we now have," they say. "We can see it, and at least it is something if not very much. But we cannot see this fantastic dream you are wishing for. A Bird in the hand is worth two in the bush, and we will not leave this present order while we cannot see anything better in existence."

Yes, Abraham had Ishmael. Isaac was only a promise. But he was a promise of God. It was Abraham who said: "O that Ishmael might live before thee, God." But God said: "In Isaac shall thy seed be called." Ishmael was a mighty warrior, one to be admired by the natural man. He could produce. And he was Abraham's son. But he was a child of rebellion. And he mocked at the weaning of Isaac. And God rejected him.

For many years Isaac was only a promise, and one that seemed impossible to come into reality. Abraham tried to produce the promise but he only made a mess of things. God must bring the promise to pass—and He will. Little we know about the infant Isaac. Only that he was circumcised, that he grew, and the he was weaned. Glory to God, there are those today who are being weaned from the milk of yesterday's traditions, and beginning to eat the strong meat of God's Word!

Isaac was a child with a submissive spirit. He ascended into high places with his father and when he got to Mt. Moriah, he came down with resurrected life, in a figure. He was being made in the image of He who had been slain from the foundation of the world. Oh, beloved, don't settle for an *earthly* Ishmael experience and existence. The Isaac life is waiting for those who will believe. It may seem that it will never come, but God is not late. This High Calling is for those who with patience and faith will not settle for less than truth and reality.

The Face of an Eagle

The prophet Ezekiel and the Apostle John both saw visions of the Sons of God. We find the stories in Ezekiel 1 and Revelation 4. Though they were separated by more than 600 years, yet both visions had this in common. the living creatures had "the face of an eagle." And John said that it was a "flying eagle." Not one confined to earth. Glory to God! John saw the Great Storm that was coming upon the earth. But he saw, in type, those who would be as "flying eagles" to rise above the storm.

Eagle in the Storm

See the chickens, how they scurry about hunting for shelter when the storm breaks. Huddling together in their misery, hoping their shelter won't crash down upon them, fearing every lightning streak and thunderbolt. Pity those who cannot find shelter, perhaps doomed to death by drowning or hail.

Not so the eagle. The same storm that pounds upon the poor earthbound creatures, produces the winds that lift the eagle effortlessly above the storm clouds. Revelation 12:12 speaks of both classes when it says: "*Therefore rejoice, ye heavens, and ye that dwell in them. Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and of the sea!*" The storm is breaking, and its full fury will fall upon those who have not known the way of the eagle.

God is delivering many today from their earthbound existence, lifting them by the Holy Ghost into heavenly places in Christ. Things of earth grow strangely dim in the light of His glory and grace. They do not fear the storm. The same persecution and tribulation that shall bring great travail upon a dead, back slidden church shall cause the eagle saints to soar to heights never before attained by man since the Pattern Son set the example.

"Fear not the storm, my little ones, for thou art not children of the storm or of wrath. Look up. Lift up thy heads and rejoice, for thou art children of redemption, and thou hast inherited that heavenly nature. I have loosed the prison doors. Be thou free from thy captivity! Be not ensnared with the evil ways of this world's systems, but learn thou the ways of thy God, and follow Him alone. Thus shalt thou rise above that which cometh upon the earth, to try them which dwell therein. And thou shalt not fear, for I am with thee, saith the Lord."

The Image of the Heavenly

The first man is of the earth, earthy; the second man is the Lord from heaven. As is the earthy, such are they also that are earthy: and as is the heavenly, such are they also that are heavenly. And as we have borne the image of the earthy, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly (1 Corinthians 15:47-49)."

"Now the Lord is that Spirit: and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty. But we all, with open (unveiled) face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed (transformed, transfigured) into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord (2 Corinthians 3:17-18)."

"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ (Ephesians 1:3)." "Which He wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead and set him at His own right hand in the heavenly places. (Ephesians 1:20)." "And hath raised us up together and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus (Ephesians 2:6)." "To the intent that now unto the principalities and powers (of darkness) in heavenly places might be known by the church the manifold wisdom of God, according to the eternal purpose which He purposed in Christ Jesus our Lord (Ephesians 3:10-11)."

"Wherefore, holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling. (Hebrews 3:1)." "But now they desire a better country, that is, an heavenly: wherefore God is not ashamed to be called their God: for He hath prepared for them a city (Hebrews 11:16)." "But ye are come unto Mount Zion, and unto the City of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem (Hebrews 12:22)."

"For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens (2 Corinthians 5:1)."

From these scriptures we can readily see that our calling is a heavenly calling. Let others tend the things of the earth. Let the dead bury the dead. Let the few who are called to this High Calling be about their Father's business. This earthly body, or "house," is only temporary. What He has prepared for His own is eternal, in the heavens.

Praise God! The city of which we are a part, that bride of Christ, is above all a heavenly city, not part of this earth's systems. And notice that the place in the heavenlies, which we are to inherit, is *now occupied* by demons, principalities and powers—a place they usurped from Adam. From this place they are "rulers of the darkness of this world." But God has purposed to bring forth a people that will ascend or be caught up to this place and cast Satan and his army down. Jesus did it, and He was the Pattern. But He purposed not to be alone in this, but was planted as a living seed that should bring forth a great harvest in His likeness.

Notice that the scriptures above show us that the image of the earthy nature we have borne in time past is to be changed. We are to bear the image of the heavenly, the One who has been exalted higher than the heavens, Jesus Christ our Lord. Even now, the beholding of His glory is bringing about a transformation from within us. Glory to God!

Notice that these heavenly places where we are to dwell are not in some *geographical* location a few billion miles from earth. They are "heavenly places in Christ." It would be comforting to know, if it were true, that Satan and his army were right now a few million miles away in outer space. But this is not so. You don't have to look far to discover that the powers of darkness are right here on this earth, working in the hearts and lives of men and women. But as Paul says, they are "wicked spirits in the heavenlies." Instead of just accepting and believing what the Bible says about these things, the imagination of men has made a fable and a myth out of the truth of God's Word. But now God is taking the veil away from our minds and revealing His Truth!

The Eyes of the Eagle

"Her eyes behold afar off (Job 39:29)."

The eagle is noted for great vision and so are eagle saints. They can believe for things that others, whose eyes are riveted to things of earth, cannot even see, or conceive of.

"Where there is no vision, the people perish." (Proverbs 29:18)

But there is vision with the eagle saints. They are the pioneers of faith that break through into new realms in the Spirit. *Noah* was an eagle saint. He saw the judgment coming and prepared for it. Others had no such vision and perished. *Enoch* had eagle vision. He saw the Lord coming with ten thousands of His Saints. He prophesied of these things, and he walked with God. *Elijah* saw the coming of a mighty deluge of life-giving rain, when it was only a little cloud like a man's hand. *Moses* saw the deliverance of God's people and the destruction of their enemies when every natural force and circumstance denied it.

The vision of God's eagle saints has never been limited by the confining limitations of natural circumstances. Isaiah, Joel, Malachi; every prophet of God has had eagle vision.

Jesus had the greatest vision of any eagle saint that ever lived. Nothing escaped the eyes of Him who had come to lead His people to victory. "The heavens were opened" unto Him, and no power of darkness could escape his eye. He saw the hearts of men like no one else ever could. They did not have to voice their doubt, criticisms, or their needs. His eyes searched the inward parts. He was the Captain of the Eagle Saints. He was the Pattern to show us the Way of the Eagles.

Eyes Within and Without

The unveiling of the Spirit that comes to eagle saints works two ways. Revelation 4:6-8 tells us that they were "full of eyes before and behind." Also "they were full of eyes within: and they rest not day and night, saying Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty." Ezekiel 1:18 says "their rings were full of eyes round about them four."

First, there are the eyes within that search the *inward* parts. The prophet Jeremiah gives a true picture when he says: "The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?" But the answer comes in the next verse: "I the Lord search the heart, I try the reins (Jeremiah 17:9-10)."

No man really knows what is in his own heart *until* God tries him and puts him to the test. But God is putting a people through the fire today, and the light is *revealing* the condition of hearts. Saints who had always thought they were so very holy and clean, now are finding out that all the time *there have been spirits imbedded deep within their very nature they had never before recognized*. Horrible is the revelation, but a very necessary one. For to see one's self is to draw back in revulsion and disgust and to cry to God for deliverance. For the work that is to be done in this age, God must have a truly holy people.

In Job chapter 42, the man of God suddenly sees the glory of God and also his own self-righteousness and his whole attitude *changes*—then deliverance comes. He says: "Therefore have I uttered that I understood not: things too wonderful for me, which I knew not. I have heard of Thee by the hearing of the ear: but now mine eye seeth Thee. Wherefore I abhor myself, and repent in dust and ashes."

For more than 30 chapters of this book, Job steadfastly maintains his innocence and righteousness. But when he meets God face to face, he suddenly sees that his worst sin has been his own self-righteousness. He has blamed God for all his troubles and has not been able to see himself. But he gets his "eagle vision," and suddenly the eyes within begin to see his own Adamic nature for what it is. *Then* can God bring him out of all his troubles and difficulties.

Isaiah was a revered prophet of God. He talked with God, was heard by the nation, and walked in king's courts. But one day (Isaiah 6) he got a vision of God, and also the eyes within saw what Isaiah looked like *in the eyes of God*. And this godly old man cried out in his misery: "Woe is me! For I am undone, because I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips: for mine eyes have seen the King, the Lord of Hosts." Praise God for the eyes within and without, for immediately *there came a cleansing* and deliverance!

Notice the sequence. First came the operation of the eyes *within*, then the eyes *without* could do their work. After he had seen his own undone condition and confessed it, then he could see the condition of the people and minister to them. But not before.

Too many of us are trying to cast demons out of others while *their own lives* are full of bad spirits, jealousy, envy, greed, malice, fear, etc. See what happened to the sons of Sceva in Acts 19:13 when they tried to cast demons out of someone else *before* they had been to the Cross for themselves. "Cast the beam out of thine own eye, then shalt thou see clearly to cast out the mote out of thy brother's eye."

Think it not strange when you *begin to see* things in your life which you could never have admitted being guilty of. You see, Hebrews 6:7-8 tells us that the same rain that brings forth "herbs meet for them for whom it is dressed" also brings forth thorns and briars. Plow up a garden spot and you will see what I mean.

During the cold, dark winter the frozen ground will produce nothing, either good or bad. But when the good seed is planted and the warm spring rains come, up comes every kind of weed imaginable. Where did they come from? How did they get into the soil if you didn't plant them? They were there all the time, but only needed the plowing and the warm rains to bring them forth. So the same latter rains of revival that bring forth the true fruit of the Spirit in our lives, also brings forth every ugly hidden thing that has *lain dormant* within and never been exposed or come to light. *Then* comes true deliverance, as we see our need and call upon God for God *must* have and will have a people who will be "holy even as He is holy."

Note: Brother Britton's words were prophetic and they apply today even *more* than they did 50 years ago! If there's a **one** issue that stands out FAR ABOVE all other issues when dealing with people—it is the issue of **self-deception**. People have NO IDEA what their true spiritual condition is. Like he said: "*Saints who had always thought they were so very holy and clean are now finding out that all the time there have been spirits imbedded deep within their very nature that they had never before recognized.* Horrible is the revelation indeed!

For some folks, the truth that must be faced is **more** than "horrible"—it's devastating because they must come to grips with the fact that the "jesus" they've been serving their **entire** lives is **not** the real Jesus! I don't think there is a more devastating reality to face than that.

I don't know what brother Britton's experience was 50 years ago regarding this kind of thing, but for us, the unpleasant reality is that not many Christians can handle the kind of "revelation" about themselves that they **must** get before they can be cleansed and made holy in truth (not just in their deluded imaginations).

Most of the people we've dealt with, when they're faced with that kind of revelation they **instantly** lie to themselves. Then they lie to God. Then they lie to us. Sometimes it takes months, and in some cases, *years* of striving against the **false view** they have of themselves before the person finally breaks and allows the truth to penetrate deep enough that it produce godly sorrow and a genuine repentance.

Sometimes they **never** accept that truth and they **never** break; so there's never any real deliverance and they just go in circles. That's when, like the mother eagle, we have to let them go

Watchman of the Wall

True eagle saints also have sharp clear vision outwardly, and the enemy cannot penetrate their defenses. Jesus is the perfect example and pattern. No one ever deceived him with smooth flattering words. No pious hypocrite ever survived under that piercing gaze. Even one of his own disciples was filled with the devil, but Jesus was not deceived. No matter that he was one of the leaders and cast out devils in the name of Jesus. His innermost thoughts and intents of the heart was manifest in the sight of that great Captain of the Eagle Saints.

This is a safeguard God has provided for the Church. See how a man and wife brought their deceitful gift to the Church, expecting to share equally with the others, but not being willing to consecrate all as the others had. Was the Church deceived? No.

For the eye of the eagle was there, "beholding afar off." And their sin was discovered and judgment came. Hypocrites and sinners "durst not join themselves to them," for the secrets of men's hearts were made manifest.

What a glorious testimony!

1 Corinthians 14:25 declares that this operation is for the local church, to be a part of every service if necessary. Paul said when an unbeliever comes in your midst, the saints will speak out the very *secrets* of his heart: "*Thus are the secrets of his heart made manifest; and so falling down on his face he will worship God, and report that God is in you of a truth*"

Do you see such as this in the local churches now?

Not often.

But I tell you of a truth, beloved, that day is coming because eagle saints are even now being pushed out of their "nests" and are learning to move in heavenly places. You understand, of course, that I am not speaking in a natural, carnal sense as tho people's bodies would be flying around in the sky like flying saucers or men from Mars. How foolish. And yet people seem unable to grasp what it means to be caught up to heavenly places in Christ. But it will happen. Then shall this world see the great manifestation of God in human flesh since our Lord Jesus was here upon the earth Himself.

As Swift as the Eagle

My time and space are gone, and there is still so much to say concerning the eagle saints. But I must say just one more word. Deuteronomy 28:49 and 2 Samuel 1:23 both speak of the *swiftness* of the eagle. "As swift as the eagle flieth." This is characteristic of this great bird. Another place it says: "As the Eagle that hasteth to the prey (Job 9:26)." Joel says: "They shall run like mighty men." Matthew says the coming of the Son of man shall be "as the lightning cometh out of the east, and shineth even unto the west: For there will the EAGLES be gathered together (Matthew 24:27-28)."

Yes, He will do a quick work. And He will use His eagle saints who are quick to hear, quick to believe, and quick to obey. The time is at hand, the call is going forth. Turn loose every hindrance of earth and cast aside every weight, and rise with the wings of eagles into heavenly places where you belong!

Glory to God. Hallelujah!

Final Note: I am including brother Bill's vision, The Harness Of The Lord on the next page because it too is more relevant now than it was 50 years ago. Let us not be like the majority of today's Christians who hate the truth about themselves and run from it. But let us be like King David, who asked God to show him if there was any evil way in him (Ps. 129:33).

THE HARNESS OF THE LORD

By: Bill Britton

There is a terrific operation of the Spirit going on today to bring the sons of God into an absolute confinement to the perfect will of God. This is the day of His preparation, the day in which He is preparing the channel through which He shall pour forth His Glory for all the world to see. This channel is His body in the earth, that glorious company of people who are being conformed through much tribulation and fiery tests to the image of the Son of God.

This is His "battle axe and weapons of war" with which He shall subdue kingdoms and overcome His enemies. This is His "mighty and strong one" to whom He shall commit the work of judging all the world. This is His overcomer, His "great army" with which He shall bring the nations into submission. The weapons of their warfare are not carnal, natural weapons, but they are mighty weapons, mighty through God to the pulling down of strongholds. These are those who shall "be strong and do exploits."

But before God can commit this great and tremendous ministry into their hands, they must submit themselves to the discipline of the Lord, letting Him truly be the Lord of their entire lives. We have long since dealt with the question of open sin. Now God is dealing with the inward rebellion of our own wills.

Some good Christians are not now being so dealt with because they are not in the firstfruits company. Nevertheless, there is a real dealing of God going on within those who are called into the High Calling of God. This is a very real thing, and is the work of the Refiner's fire. To those who are going through it, some of its aspects are horrible, but very necessary, and the end result thereof is glorious as we are brought into absolute and complete submission to the will of our Lord.

It was in a minister's conference and convention in Tulsa, Oklahoma that God gave me a vision which I want to share with you concerning the harnessing of our own wills. There were more than 30 ministers present in this particular Thursday morning service, and God the Father of spirits, was present to deal with His sons, to correct them and discipline them to absolute obedience to His will. There was such a stern dealing in the Spirit that no one could go to the pulpit and minister. There was a reluctance among the ministers to say anything except that which was directly ordered by the Holy Spirit.

As those men of God sat there in the awesome presence of Almighty God—some having many years of ministry, some missionaries, all of them capable of getting up and preaching a powerful sermon—I was impressed by the way they responded to the discipline of the Spirit. And in the midst of this terrific dealing of God with our spirits, the Holy Ghost gave me a vision...

I SAW THE KING'S CARRIAGE

On a dirt road in the middle of a wide field stood a beautiful carriage, something on the order of a stage-coach, but all edged in gold, and with beautiful carvings. It was pulled by six large chestnut horses; two in the lead, two in the middle and two in the rear. But they were not moving, they were not pulling the carriage, and I wondered why.

Then I saw the driver underneath the carriage, on the ground on his back, just behind the last two horses' heels, working on something between the front wheels of the carriage. I thought, "My, he is in a dangerous place; for if one of those horses kicked or stepped back they could kill him, or if they decided to go forward, or got frightened somehow, they would pull the carriage right over him." But he didn't seem afraid. He knew those horses were disciplined and would not move till he told them to move. The horses were not stamping their feet nor acting restless, and though there were bells on their feet, the bells were not tinkling. There were pom-poms on their harness over their heads but the pom-poms were not moving. They were simply standing still and quiet, waiting for the voice of the Master.

THERE WERE TWO YOUNG COLTS IN THE FIELD

As I watched the harnessed horses, I noticed two young colts coming out of the open field, and they approached the carriage and seemed to say to the horses: "Come play with us, we have many fine games, we will race with you, come catch us..." And with that the colts kicked up their heels, flicked their tails and raced across the open field. But when they looked back and saw the horses were not following, they were puzzled. They knew nothing of the harnesses and could not understand why the horses did not want to play. So they called to them: "Why do you not race with us. Are you tired? Are you too weak? Do you not have the strength to run? You are much too solemn, you need more joy in life." But the horses answered not a word, nor did they stamp their feet or toss their heads. They stood quiet and still, waiting for the voice of the Master.

Again the colts called to them: "Why do you stand so in the hot sun? Come over here in the shade of this nice tree. See how green the grass is? You must be hungry. Come and feed with us, it is green and so good. You look thirsty. Come and drink of one of the many streams of cool clear water." But the horses answered them with not so much as a glance. They stood still, waiting for the command to go forward with the King.

COLTS IN THE MASTER'S CORRAL

And then the scene changed. I saw lariat nooses fall around the necks of the two colts, and they were led off to the Master's corral for training and discipline. How sad they were as the lovely green fields disappeared, and they were put into the confinement of the corral with its brown dirt and high fence. The

colts ran from fence to fence, seeking freedom, but found that they were confined to this place of training. Then the Trainer began to work them with His whip and His bridle. What a death for those who had been all their lives accustomed to freedom! They could not understand the reason for this torture, this terrible discipline. What crime had they done to deserve this? Little did they know of the responsibility that was to be theirs when they had submitted to the discipline, learned to obey the Master, and finished their training. All they knew was that this processing was the most horrible thing they had ever known.

SUBMISSION AND REBELLION

One of the colts rebelled under the training. He said, "This is not for me. I like my freedom, my green hills, my flowing streams of fresh water. I will not take this confinement, this terrible thing." So he found a way out, jumped the fence and ran happily back to the meadows of grass. I was amazed that the Master let him go and went not after him. Rather, He devoted His attention to the remaining colt who had had the same opportunity to escape, but decided to submit his own will and learn the ways of the Master.

The training got harder than ever, but he was rapidly learning more and more to obey the slightest wish of the Master, and to respond to even the quietness of His voice. And I saw that had there been no training, no testing, there would have been neither submission nor rebellion from either of the colts, for in the field they did not have the choice to rebel or submit; they were sinless in their innocence.

But when brought to the place of testing and training and discipline, then was made manifest the obedience of one and the rebellion of the other. Though it seemed safer not to come to the place of discipline because of the risk of being found rebellious, I saw that without this there could be no sharing of His glory, no Sonship.

INTO THE HARNESS

Finally, this period of training was over. Was the colt now rewarded with his freedom and sent back to the green fields? No! An even greater confinement than ever now took place, as a harness dropped about his shoulders. Now he found there was not even the freedom of the small corral, for in his harness he could only move where and when his Master spoke; and unless the Master spoke, he stood still.

The scene changed again. I saw the other colt standing on the side of a hill, nibbling on some grass. Then, across the fields and down the road came the King's carriage, drawn by six horses. With amazement he saw that in the lead, on the right side was his brother colt, now made strong and mature on the good corn of the Master's stable. He saw the lovely pom-poms shaking in the wind, noticed the glittering gold bordered about his brother, heard the beautiful tinkling of the bells on his feet, and envy came into his heart. Thus he complained to himself: "Why has my brother been so honored, and I am

neglected? They have not put bells on my feet, nor pom-poms on my head. The Master has not given me the responsibility of pulling His carriage, nor put me in the golden harness. Why have they chosen my brother instead of me?"

And by the Spirit the answer came back to me as I watched: "Because one submitted to the will and discipline of the Master and other rebelled; thus has the one been chosen and the other set aside."

A FAMINE IN THE LAND

Then I saw a great drought sweep across the countryside, and the green grass became dead, dry, brown and brittle. The little streams dried up, stopped flowing, and there was only a small muddy puddle here and there. I saw the little colt (I was amazed that it never seemed to grow or mature) as he ran here and there, across the field looking for fresh streams and green pastures, but finding none. Still he ran, seemingly in circles, always looking to feed his famished spirit. But there was famine in the land and the rich green pastures and flowing streams of yesterday were not to be had. And one day the colt stood on the hillside on weak and wobbly legs, wondering where to go next to find food, and how to get strength to go.

It seemed like there was no use. Good food and flowing streams were a thing of the past, and all the efforts to find more only taxed his waning strength. Suddenly he saw the King's carriage coming down the road, pulled by six great horses. And he saw his brother sleek, fat and strong, muscles rippling, elegant and beautiful with much grooming.

His heart was amazed and perplexed, and he cried: "My brother, where do you find the food to keep you strong and fat in these days of famine? I have run everywhere in my freedom, searching for food, and I find none. Where do you, in your awful confinement, find food in this time of drought? Tell me, please, for I must know!" The answer came back from a voice filled with victory and praise: "In my Master's House there is a secret place in the confining limitations of His stables where he feeds me by His own hand, and His granaries never run empty, and His well never runs dry."

And with this the Lord showed me that in the day when people are weak and famished in their spirits in the time of spiritual famine, that those who have lost their own wills, and have come into the secret place of the Most High, into the utter confinement of His perfect will, shall have plenty of the corn of heaven, and a never ending flow of fresh streams of revelation by His Spirit. Thus the vision ended.

INTERPRETATION OF THE VISION

"Write the vision and make it plain upon tables, that he may run that readeth it" (Hab. 2:2). "Harness the horses and get up ye horsemen" (Jer. 46:4). I am sure that many of you who can hear what the Spirit saith to the Church, have already seen what God was showing in the vision, but let me make it plain.

Being born into the family of God, feeding on the green pastures and drinking from the many streams of the unfolding revelation of His purposes is fine and wonderful. But that is not enough. While we were children, young and undisciplined, limited only by the outer fence of the Law that ran around the limits of the pastures, (that kept us from getting into the dark pastures of the poison weeds), He was content to watch us develop and grow into young manhood, spiritually speaking.

But the time came to those who feed in His pastures and drank from His streams, when they were to be brought into discipline or "child-training" for the purpose of making them mature sons. Many of the children today can-not understand why some of those who have put on the harness of God cannot get excited by the many religious games and the playful antics of the immature. They wonder why the disciplined ones run not after every new revelation or feed on every opportunity to engage in seemingly "good and profitable" religious activities. They wonder why some will not race with them in their frantic efforts to build great and notable ministries.

They cannot grasp the simple fact that this company of saints is waiting for the voice of the Master; and they do not hear God in all this outward activity. They will move in their time, when the Master speaks, but not before—though many temptations come from the playful colts. The colts cannot understand why those who seemingly appear to have great abilities and strength are not putting it to good use. "Get the carriage on the road," they say. But the disciplined ones, those who are in God's harness, know better than to move before they hear the voice of the Master. They will move in their time, with purpose and great responsibility.

And the Lord made me to know that there were many whom he had brought into training who had rebelled against the discipline and the chastening of the Father. They could not be trusted with the great responsibility of mature Sonship, so He let them go back to their freedom. He let them go back to their religious activities, revelations and gifts. They are still His people. They are still feeding in His pastures, but He has set them aside from the great purposes for the end of this age.

He showed me that though the chastising seemeth grievous for a time, and the discipline hard to endure, yet the result with all the glory of Sonship is worth it all; and the glory to follow far exceeds the suffering we are to endure. Though some lose even their lives in this training, yet they will share alike the glory of His eternal purposes. So faint not, saints of God, for it is the Lord that doth bring thee into confinement, and not thine enemy. It is for thy good, and for His glory. So endure all things with praises and thanksgiving that He hath counted thee worthy to share His glory!

Fear thou not the whip in His hand, for it is not to punish thee, but to correct and train thee, that thou mightest come into submission to His will, and be found in His likeness in that hour. Rejoice thou in thy trials, in all thy tribulations, and glory in His cross, and in the confining limitations of His harness, for he hath chosen thee, and he hath taken upon Himself the responsibility of keeping thee strong and well fed. Lean upon Him and trust not in thine own ability and understanding. Thus shalt thou be fed, and His hand shall be upon thee, and His glory shall overshadow thee and shall flow through thee as it goes forth to cover the earth. Glory to God! Bless the Lord, He's wonderful! Let Him be Lord of your life, friends, and complain not at that which He bringeth to pass in your life.

PLENTY IN TIME OF FAMINE

For in the hour when famine sweeps the land, He shall feed by His own hand those who are submitted to His perfect will, and who dwell in the secret place of the Most High. When terror stalks the land, those in His harness shall not be afraid, for they shall feel His bit and bridle and know the guidance of His Spirit. When others are weak and frail and fearful, there shall be those who shall be strong in the power of His might, and shall lack no good thing. In the hour when the traditions of the religious system have been proven false, and their streams have dried up, then His chosen ones shall speak forth with the true Word of the Lord. Rejoice ye sons of God, that you have been chosen by His grace for this great work.

The fence which kept the colts in their own meadows and their own pastures means nothing to the team in the harness, for the gates open to them, and they go forth pulling the King's carriage into many strange and wonderful places. They do not stop to eat the poison weeds of sin, for they feed only at the Master's table. These fields they trample under their feet as they go forth on the King's business.

And so to those who are brought into absolute subjection to His will there is no (external) law. For they move in the grace of God, led only by His Spirit, where all things are lawful but all things are not expedient. This is a dangerous realm for the undisciplined, and many have perished in sin as they leaped over the fence without His harness and bridle.

Some have thought of themselves as being completely harnessed and submissive to Him, only to find that in some avenue of their life there dwelled rebellion and self will. Let us wait before Him until He puts His noose around us and draws us to His place of training. And let us learn of the dealings of God and the movings of His Spirit until at last we feel His harness drop about us, and hear His voice guiding us. Therein is safety from the traps and pitfalls of sin, and then shall we abide in His House forever!