



God moves us out of the nest into something greater.

SERMON NOTES

Steve Siemens - MAY 16, 2021



Their grip is up to 10 times stronger than humans.

They build their nests on top of high cliffs.

An eagle's eyesight is up to 8 times stronger than humans.

Bald eagles lose feathers on equal sides to remain balanced.

They mate for life.

Eagle nests are made out of sticks, moss, plant stalks, seaweed and lichens. Both male and female eagles build their nests.

Eagles can turn their heads 210 degrees.

Eagles can fly up to 160 kilometers per hour. Eagles are one of the fastest birds on the planet. They can fly as fast as a speeding car at 120-160 km per hour. However, the fastest bird is the peregrine falcon which flies at an average of 390 km per hour.

The average eagle has a lifespan of 20 years.

Eagles usually live in the wild for 20-30 years. In contrast to most birds, its lifespan is considerably longer. The oldest known eagle in the wild lived for as long as 38 years.

NewLife is 20 years old this year!

It's time to take flight!



Eagles

- **Are fearless**
- **Are tenacious**
- **Never eat dead things**
- **Prepare for training**
- **Have vitality**
- **Build amazing nests**

Picks thorns and lays them in the base of the nest.

Collects twigs which are laid to begin building the nest.

Picks thorns laying them on top of the twigs

Now soft grass and moss to cover the thorns

Then plucks feathers to complete the nest to make it very comfortable

If I'm going to take flight, I'm going to do it as an eagle, not any other birds.

Today, I'm asking you to take flight!

To take flight, we must ...

1. Prepare for the journey!

Eagles can fly as high as 15,000 feet.

Eagles use little energy when they are flying high. Although they can soar altitudes of 10,000 feet to 15,000 feet, they fly in long glides to conserve energy.

Luke 14:28-30: for which of **you**, intending to **build** a tower, does not sit down first and **count the cost**, whether he has enough to finish – lest, after **he** has laid the foundation, and is not able to finish, all who see it **begin** to mock him saying, ‘This man began to **build** and was not able to finish.

Five things to do as we prepare:

1. Pray then Plan

Go ahead and do a planning meeting. After all, failing to plan is planning to fail. **But** don't just brainstorm; praystorm. The best plans are birthed in the presence of God.

2. Plan then Pray

3. Pray then Listen

4. Listen then Act

5. Act by Taking Flight

Fruitful living is impossible without faithful prayer.

The purpose of prayer is not to give orders to God; the purpose is to get orders from God.

Prayer is the difference between appointments and divine appointments.

Prayer is the difference between good ideas and God-ideas.

Prayer is the difference between the favor of God and the luck of the draw.

Prayer is the difference between possible and impossible.

Prayer is the difference between the best we can do and the best God can do.

No victory has ever been won apart from prayer and praise.

FLIGHT KEY: Never underestimate the power of a single prayer.

2. Have vision like an eagle!

An eagle has 1 million cones per mm² on its retina.

One of the main reasons why an eagle has better eyesight is because of its retinas. The light-detecting cells of an eagle have more cones at the back of the eyeball. For instance, a human eye has 200,000 cones per mm², compared to an eagle's eye with one million cones per mm².

An eagle can see 4 to 5 times farther than a person with perfect vision

Video: Watch how an eagle blinks!

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

Visualize the future, don't focus on the past. And the future will motivate you.

Identify opportunities, don't talk obstacles. And opportunities will talk.

Seek God, don't seek answers. And the answers will seek you.

Invite others, don't go it alone. And others will invite others.

Opt to win, don't think defeat. And the wins, small or big, will energize you.

Nurture change, don't seek comfort. And the changes will bless you.

FLIGHT KEY: When God gives a vision, He always makes provision.

3. Work together!

Male and female eagles make a very good parenting team. The males' job is to guarantee that there's food in their nests, while the female roosts at their nest for 35 days to keep their eggs warm.

I Corinthians 12:15-27: ¹⁵ Now if the foot should say, "Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body," it would not for that reason stop being part of the body. ¹⁶ And if the ear should say, "Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body," it would not for that reason stop being part of the body. ¹⁷ If the whole body were an eye, where would the sense of hearing be? If the whole body were an ear, where would the sense of smell be? ¹⁸ But in fact God has placed the parts in the body, every one of them, just as he wanted them to be. ¹⁹ If they were all one part, where would the body be? ²⁰ As it is, there are many parts, but one body.

²¹ The eye cannot say to the hand, "I don't need you!" And the head cannot say to the feet, "I don't need you!" ²² On the contrary, those parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, ²³ and the parts that we think are less honorable we treat with special honor. And the parts that are unpresentable are treated with special modesty, ²⁴ while our presentable parts need no special treatment. But God has put the body together, giving greater honor to the parts that lacked it, ²⁵ so that there should be no division in the body, but that its parts should have equal concern for each other. ²⁶ If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it.

²⁷ Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it.

Each person claiming NewLife as their church home must appreciate their God-given role in the mission of NewLife.

No one can make you feel inferior unless you let them.

If you don't do what God needs you to do, our Body is incomplete.

If you don't do what God needs you to do, it is a protest against God.

How do we share joys? Together!

How do we share sorrow? Together

How do we share victories? Together!

How do we share defeats? Together!

We have the obligation and privilege, to care for one another.

FLIGHT KEY: If we do the little things like they are big things, then God will do the big things like they are little things.

4. **Fly straight** into the storms!

Eagles will fly directly into the eye of a storm. In doing that, the eye will suck them into the middle of the storm where the air is calm and they will soar up, out and above the storm.

Explain what an eagle does.

FACT: Nothing is permanent in this wicked world – not even our storms.

FACT: Storms are often the tools by which God fashions us for better things.

FACT: Worrying does not take away tomorrow's storms. It takes away today's peace.

FACT: Sometimes God delivers us from our storms/problems; sometimes God delivers us through our storms/problems.

FLIGHT KEY: Quit talking to God about your problem and start talking to your problem about God.

5. Stir the nest!

When it's time for the eaglets to learn to fly and leave the nest, the parents begin removing the comforts lining the nest. This forces the eaglet to move to the top of the nest, and begin testing out their wings out of desperation.

Moses penned these words at the end of his life:

Deuteronomy 32:10-12 - In a desert land he found him, in a barren and howling waste. He shielded him and cared for him; he guarded him as the apple of his eye, like an eagle that stirs up its nest and hovers over its young, that spreads its wings to catch them and carries them aloft. The LORD alone led him; no foreign god was with him.

Talk about the stirring of the nest.

FLIGHT KEY: If you want to see God move, make a move.

We have a choice: Scratch like a chicken or soar like an eagle!

Video of eagle and chicken – keep it on while I’m going through these points

- In our efforts to make **Jesus known**, should we scratch or soar?

I want people sharing heaven with me. There will be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying and no more pain. Everything and everyone in heaven will be perfect. We will finally be able to love Jesus and other people with perfect love untainted by sin.

- When you **find community** through a small group, do you want the group to scratch or soar?
- When you **discover your purpose**, do you want to scratch or soar?

I know my purpose! I get up every morning to fulfill that purpose!

- Do you want to **live the mission** scratching or soaring?

I want to live my life giving it away!

What is going to help us soar?

Prepare for the journey

Have eagle eye vision

Work together

Face storms/challenges head on

Stir the nest

We have a plan – it involves you - 3 year Vision Script

“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*