

# FIRST things FIRST Daily Devotionals

## Devotional Guide for June 17-23, 2024

These devotions are prepared for you each week by Pastor Kevin to use for your own personal devotions with the Lord, and are designed to prepare you for the message next weekend.

### Monday, June 17<sup>TH</sup> “Your youth is renewed like the eagle’s”

Scripture: Psalm 103:1-5 NIV

This psalm of praise begins with the individual believer. These verses call us to praise and they outline the Lord’s benefits. I have always had a fascination with eagles, just as the psalmist describes the way that the Lord renews our lives. The eagle symbolizes youth, vigor, and stamina; such endurance and perseverance are evidence that God is at work in a believer’s life.

*Question: How have you felt renewed by the love of God?*

### Tuesday, June 18<sup>TH</sup> “Strengthen your feeble arms and knees”

Scripture: Hebrews 12:7-13 NIV

The author of Hebrews challenges believers to “endure hardship as discipline” (v.7) by accepting it as God’s discipline, as a loving father treats his children. This is not limited just to punishment for wrongdoing; rather, it is training toward spiritual maturity, based on orderly instruction and correction when needed. It is positive, as it directs us down right paths of conduct and righteousness. The author urges his readers to renewed effort in their struggles—stay straight on the path for Christ, stay obedient to His will. Like eagles that learn how to soar, we will find strength for our faith journey in Jesus.

*Question: How has God provided discipline and training to strengthen you on your journey of faith?*

### Wednesday, June 19<sup>TH</sup> “Strengthening in his faith”

Scripture: Romans 4:18-25 NIV

The apostle Paul relates the story of the Old Testament patriarch, Abraham, who believed “against all hope” (v.18), even in the face of contrary evidence. His faith in a God who brings life from the dead is then a paradigm for believers, who also believe in a God who brought life to the dead body of Jesus Christ. Abraham looked ahead to the ultimate fulfillment of God’s promises. Christians can look ahead to this fulfillment with even greater assurance, because we also look back at the climactic fulfillment of God’s promises in Jesus.

*Question: How do you maintain your faith even in the hard times?*

### Thursday, June 20<sup>TH</sup> “Being strengthened with all power”

Scripture: Colossians 1:9-14 NIV

The apostle Paul describes four elements of a life that are worthy of and fully pleasing to the Lord: bearing fruit, growing in knowledge of God, being strengthened for endurance and patience, and then giving joyful thanks. These fundamentals will fend off the harmful pressures from false teachers. The same glorious power that raised Jesus from the dead also strengthens believers, so that they might have both endurance and patience in difficult times and circumstances. The disciplines of endurance, patience, and “joyful thanks” (v.12) guard believers from the lure of false teaching; they also are helpful to draw others to the Christian faith. Paul reminds believers that this strength and power do not come from what we know, but who we know. Knowing God results in knowing the will of God. Living a life that pleases God is only possible when believers recognize their own weaknesses and depend completely on God’s power. A life truly pleasing to God is motivated by sincere gratitude to God the Father for spiritual blessings. These blessings include the inheritance of God’s Kingdom, our rescue from slavery to the powers of darkness, being transferred from the kingdom of the enemy to the Kingdom of God, and the forgiveness of our sins.

*Question: Do you pray for the strength of someone else’s faith?*

### Friday, June 21<sup>ST</sup> “They will soar on wings like eagles”

Scripture: Isaiah 40:25-31 NIV

God asks, “To whom will you compare Me?” (v.25). God has no equal; the vast heavens are His creation. He brings out the stars one by one, calling them by name. His great power ensures that every star reports when summoned. So, if God can know every star in the cosmos, why would anyone complain that God isn’t aware of their troubles or that He disregards them? Have they not heard? In fact, God has strength for the weary and power for the weak. Since we are not God, we grow tired, and even the young stumble and fall. We need God’s renewing strength, and it comes to those who hope in Him and wait for Him. The weary will soar like eagles, for God will bear them up in His strength. What can compare with God’s power? He can be trusted. He is the living God, without equal!

*Question: How can your journey of faith be like the soaring of an eagle?*

Sunday, June 23, 2024

8:30 and 10:45 am (Livestream @10:45 am)

Colossians 1:9-14 and Isaiah 40:25-31 NIV

Pastor’s message: “Wings Like Eagles”

Worship theme: “STORM PROOF—

Securing Your Biblical Foundations”

