

Sunday, Nov. 5, 1939

Pastor W. H. Offiler

Isaiah 40:28 "Hast thou not known? Hast thou not heard, that the everlasting God, the Lord, the Creator of the ends ~~of the worlds~~ of the earth, fainteth not, neither is weary? There is no searching of his understanding."

One of the marvels of Christian experience, as it appeals to my heart, is that wonderful spirit that comes to you and to me and all the people of God, to be constant and consistent in our Christian experience. We are traveling, many times, a hard, rough and rocky pathway and somehow life and its experiences hardly seem to be the same as that life we knew fifty years ago. Something seems to have dropped out of it and other things seem to have come into our life's experience, but one thing has appealed to my heart --- the marvelous grace of our God that continues so constantly and changeless on us. No one will ever be able to legitimately find fault with God. "Hast thou not heard that the everlasting God fainteth not, neither is weary?"

It is so easy, sometimes, for men and women to fall by the wayside and faint, when it comes to their walk with God. All my life I have enjoyed working with young people and maybe that is one of the reasons I stay young. I have always loved to see that youthful enthusiasm by young men and women as they lay their plans to walk with God and carry the message of the Lord Jesus Christ to the various parts of the earth. That spirit, whether it be in the young men and women, is always a mighty blessing in the service of the church.

But sometimes I think there is one phase of Christian experience that possibly appeals to me a little more. So many times we see the thousands of God's people, men and women who have lived their lives and endured the hard knocks that come to one in this world. They have carried many burdens that loved ones might be saved. I have seen these old men and old women in the closing days and hours of their lives with a faith and spiritual enthusiasm that has sometimes surprised my soul.

Youthful enthusiasm is one thing because they know not what lies before them, but when we have walked the way with God and when, like Paul, we have fought that good fight and have been in the conflict and battle, and borne the burden and heat of the day, and when the last days and hours do come, and you still have that vehement love and faith in God, that is another phase of Christian experience. It is a marvelous thing, friends, for you and for me to carry these burdens and walk with God and endure hardships as good servants of the Lord Jesus Christ and to maintain our hope and faith down into the very end of things. Why is this? How is it that men and women, well on in years, are able to face the future so faithfully and unflinchingly? Is it not because they have waited on the Lord and renewed their strength from day to day? Mounted up 10,000 times on wings, as a great eagle, and found power in the presence of God. It takes that power to lift us above the things of this world and its strata. How wonderful, that God's people, as they use this gift of Eagle Wing power of the Spirit of God can get away, above the lower stratosphere and things of our human nature.

Christianity today is lived on too low a plane. We try to mix the human side of us with the spirit as we do things for God. "They that wait upon the Lord"...Ah, not the talented. Not those of abundant scholarship, or of great wealth, or earthly possessions, but "they that wait upon the Lord" shall renew their strength. That class of people who are willing to give themselves in prayer and consecration, in holy quietness in the secret closet of prayer. "They that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength." This is the privilege of the young in their vigor and of the Elders in their declining years. Amen.

Stenographic notes of
Marguerite Hood
Fischer Studios

Pastor W. H. Offiler
Bethel Temple
Seattle, Washington