



REFLECTIONS

February 5, 2023

**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 40:31

Flying Against the Wind

Okay. I confess. The subject today wasn't born from my own thoughts. Rather, today's *Reflections* is inspired by a day's reading from *Streams in the Desert* by L.B. Conway. But the verse it drew me to is not the one she referenced. Isaiah 40:31 is more familiar to me.

Aerodynamics is at the core of her message. "The wings of the airplane create more lift by flying against the wind," she writes. Her analogy means that God isn't working against us with those troubles we face. He faces us against them to strengthen us and to lift us up more quickly above them than we would by not facing them.

Oh! And here's another familiar verse to recall when those troubles in blow against you:

*Trust in the Lord with all your heart
and lean not on your own understanding;
in all your ways acknowledge him,
and he will make your paths straight.*

(Proverbs 3:5-6)

Can't you imagine that the Wright brothers had placed their trust in the Lord before the wind lifted their wings on their historic day.

But when trials try to block our way, there is still another passage to remember:

*...weeping may remain for a night,
but rejoicing comes in the morning...
You turned my wailing into dancing;
you removed my sackcloth and clothed me with joy,
that my heart may sing to you and not be silent.
O Lord my God, I will give you thanks forever.*

(Psalms 30:5, 11-12)

In case you're wondering what verse L.B. Conway chose to make her point about flying against the wind, it's Isaiah 58:14: *and I will cause you to ride on the heights of the land.*

Here's the sum of it all: *be strong and take heart and wait for the Lord.* (Psalms 27:14)

You are the light of the world,

Richard +

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