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Fuel for Courage

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The goal of our meeting together is to openly share what God has led us to know from His word and through life experiences. This is to be an interactive study. Different instructors will each have a month to be with you. God is giving us this time to encourage and learn from one another in the faith. As adult learners and as born again believers in Christ, God has given us His Word and His Holy Spirit to lead and guide us into all truth .

- 1) In your chat box please list some of the extreme situations many have dealt with in our nation in this year of **2020**.
- 2) Can you think of a situation today where some believe that God has forgotten them, that He does not choose to act, or perhaps He does not care?

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Study Passage Isaiah 40:27-31 KJV

- “Why sayest thou, O Jacob, and speakest, O Israel, My way is hid from the Lord, and my judgment is passed over from my God? Hast thou not known? hast thou not heard, that the everlasting God, the Lord, the Creator of the ends of the earth, fainteth not, neither is weary? there is no searching of his understanding. He giveth power to the faint; and to them that have no might he increaseth strength. Even the youths shall faint and be weary, and the young men shall utterly fall: But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint.

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Isaiah 40:27-31 (Good News Translation)

“Israel, why then do you complain that the Lord doesn't know your troubles or care if you suffer injustice? Don't you know? Haven't you heard? The Lord is the everlasting God; he created all the world. He never grows tired or weary. No one understands his thoughts. He strengthens those who are weak and tired. Even those who are young grow weak; young people can fall exhausted. But those who trust in the Lord for help will find their strength renewed. They will rise on wings like eagles; they will run and not get weary; they will walk and not grow weak.”

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The book of Isaiah parallels the entire Bible with its 66 books in that the Book of Isaiah contains 66 chapters with the first 39 chapters labeled as 'groan' as Israel went through difficult times due to their sin of idolatry and the last 27 chapters listed as 'glory' as they speak of the glorious future of Israel with many allusions to the coming Messiah and the Suffering Servant which we know to be Jesus Christ.

So here we are in a pivotal chapter which opens with the words "Comfort ye, Comfort ye my people, saith your God." God has made all believers a kingdom of priests. Though this was spoken to the prophets we all may have

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an occasion to share the good News of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. There are times when some wonder does God see me, does He care, is He yet in control. These verses clearly speak to the fact that yes. God is certainly still in control. Hast Thou not known - personal experiences with God's movement in your life, your reading of Scripture, hast though not heard- the faith passed down from the Church and other believers. God is eternal, He is not wearied by the difficulties of life, He is not wearied or tired of many people praying to Him at once bringing all their concerns at the same time. He understands that we are frail. There is no time or place where He is not.

The Lord's attributes are clearly seen in verses 28-29. Our eternal Creator possesses, omnipresence, omniscience untiring strength, wisdom, and He is one who shares His strength. God's strength is reserved for those who know they are weak and who do not have strength in themselves.

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•Weary or tired v.28

Failure through loss of inherent strength

Weary in vs. 30 points to exhaustion because of the hardness of life. Our natural strength can fail but God, who knows our need says that those who **wait** upon the Lord shall renew their strength. v.31 Those who wait upon the Lord... (hope in the Lord) Hope has the biblical concept of certainty. It is an expectation of the fulfillment of something desired or promised.

It also means to wait(patiently) and rest (trustfully)

Waiting is not a passive sitting around expecting Him to come to us passively.

Renew: to change, put on afresh, keep putting on fresh strength. It is a different strength, as if people become eagles, a strength put on by **transformation**, it is a divine strength, a strength like the Lords own that **does not weary or faint**.

Run: the exceptional demands of life.

Walk: the ordinary daily grind

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The criterion for receiving God's unlimited strength was not youth, but to wait upon the Lord. v.31. Wait for His timing, wait for His answers, wait for His direction.

As opposed to : Going our own way

Running ahead of God

Taking matters into our own hands

I'll do it my way

What potential problems could occur when we try one of the four options stated above? What is the remedy? How would you comfort someone in this situation?

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According to Henry Blackaby, if you are spiritually prepared when a crisis comes, you will not **have to try** to develop instantly the quality of relationship with Christ that can sustain you.

- * if you suddenly have an opportunity to share your faith with an unbeliever.
- * Or when you meet a person in sorrow (you will have much to offer)
- * When temptations come, you will already have safeguards in place.

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Points to Remember

- 1) Our Creator and Sovereign God is in control and nothing escapes His notice.
- 2) Focus on the eternal, not just the temporal difficulties in life
- 3) Wait (serve) on the Lord with expectation and prayer.
- 4) God energizes us by His Holy Spirit, His Word, His reliability, omniscience and omnipotence, His unlimited resources and strength. Our strength comes from God.
- 5) Never fear that your problems are too much for God to handle. He is able!
6. Whether you are soaring like an eagle, running or walking, today you are making forward progress and God has promised that as you look to Him you will not faint!

Communication Information

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