

in the boundless air of His love, for even the sparrow may find a home in His altar."

These are the Christian's first wings. Have you used even that pair yet; the sparrow's wings, marked with blood, and telling of atonement and life through Another? Always bearing about the dying of the Lord Jesus.'

There following the wings of the eagle. "They that wait on the Lord shall renew their strength (there are the folded wings), they shall mount up with wings as eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they walk and not faint." What a contrast between the sparrow and the eagle. It is God's grand order of progress. He means the saved life to become the serving life; the serving which can only be real when it is seeing His face; so He gives the wings of the eagle that there might be strong flight and high communion together. The strength of these wings is all His, but we have to reckon on it. Have you a lingering idea that to hear that all the strength is His will take the life out of you and leave you idle and supine, waiting for Him to work? It is not so. To know that all His strength is His will empower us to venture on it. "My strength is made perfect in weakness," and then the weakness ventures on it and finds it true. "The Lord is the strength of my life." There is something very exhilarating in the idea of flight; and the swift easy winging through the air. God wants our life of service to have this character in it. And He not only says they shall mount up, but shall run and walk. They are not different stages. It is not that we begin with soaring, and then drop to a slow dead level, but all are to be lived together. The mounting up is the Ascension life of the Communion, the running is the Resurrection life of "Go tell;" the walking is the Calvary life of endurance. Communion, service, endurance. He means us to live all, and each works into the other, so that though we may have one aspect more prominent at one time in our life than other, yet the strength of each lies in the other two being carried on at the same time.

Then there follow the "wings of a dove." David longed, "Oh that I had the wings of a dove!" God answers by giving them, but not not to "flee away" with, but to soar high and free, the beautiful witness to His wealth. "Though ye have lien among the pots, yet shall ye be as the wings of a dove, covered with silver, and her feathers with yellow gold."—(Psa. lxxviii: 13.) God endows His child with all His wealth. He is not only to be marked by the death-mark, but to be known by the wealth of God. He does not only give us safety by death, but a life of wealth and beauty. "To her it was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, bright and pure"—(Rev. xix: 8, R. V.) Like His own transfiguration raiment, "shining exceeding white as snow; glistening, white as the light." That is what He means the life—the outward and visible life—of every child of His to be. Have we come as far as this, or have we only seen the sparrow's wings, and are content with safety, and not gone to bear His beauty? Let the beauty of the Lord our God be upon us! He means it to be, and He wants us to accept the fact that is so, first, and then to act upon it, and to expand the wings. Down among the pots, it cannot be seen what He has done for us, then let us expand for His credit, that His wealth may be spread out where the sun can catch it and show what His life can be even in one who lay among the pots. There is no merit to ourselves in it, for neither the whiteness of the of the silvea nor the brigetness of the Gold are inherent. They are upon the wings and they can only be seen as we dare out into the light, and expand the wings He has given and covered.

No one can say that they are too low or too mean. "Among the pots," was as low as anything could be: and if that has been too much our history in the past year, let the New Year open another era, let His light shine upon His wealth. All are His; not only the silver and the gold, but the very light which reveals them; but it is

necessary for His glory that we should soar into the light before it can be known.

The wings of the sparrow tell us of safety and freedom through His death. The wings of the eagle tell us of strength in His service. The wings of the dove of perfect beauty and wealth. That is what He means for us, safety, service and beauty. We are not to be satisfied with the first two pair; but He wants the whole life to be covered with His beauty. It does not bring Him much glory when our lives have only the wings of safety and service. We dishonor Him when it can be said of any servant of His that their goodness ends with the outer service. "Very energetic outside, but no sweetness within." He wants us to revel in His wealth as well as to use His strength. Who has He to toll the world how rich He is, and how great is His beauty, except His children? Therefore let this year aim for His beauty to be upon our lives.

In an old feudal castle near the Stelvio the shields of former owners still hang upon its walls. The eagle of the empire overmounts all, but among the personal shields is one with three wings, "azure, three wings disclosed argent." Shall not that be our shield? our coat of arms, and that heraldic sign become a living story.

So we shall honor Him, as our life soars with:—

The wings of the Sparrow; bearing the mark of Death, telling of Atonement: "always bearing about the dying of the Lord Jesus." Purchased at Calvary.

The wings of the Eagle: strength for His service: telling of His Resurrection:—always bearing about the strength of the Lord Jesus.

The wings of the Dove: with the mark of His wealth, telling of His Ascension;—always bearing about the beauty of the Lord Jesus.—This the purchase of Pentecost.

The Lord needs such servants; the sceptical world and the heathen world need such witnesses. May we claim all, and safe, serving and satisfied win many for Him, bearing about His death, His strength, His wealth; showing that his whole work, Atonement, Resurrection, Ascension, and Pentecost have their full work in us.

Thus with folded wings to hear His voice, and expanded wings when He gives the word, our New Year shall see us be true witnesses than the last, and "the Lord shall cause His glorious Voice to be heard."

HE CARETH FOR US.

Job could not understand the way of God with him; he was greatly perplexed. He could not find the Lord, with whom aforesaid he constantly abode. He cries, "Behold, I go forward, but He is not there; and backward, but I cannot perceive Him; on the left hand, where He doth work, but I cannot behold Him; He hideth Himself on the right hand, that I cannot see Him."

But if Job knew not the way of the Lord, the Lord knew Job's way. It is a great comfort that when we cannot see the Lord, He sees us, and perceives the way that we take. It is not so important that we should understand what the Lord is doing as that the Lord should understand what we are doing, and that we should be impressed by the great fact that He does understand it. Our case may be quite beyond our own comprehension, but it is all plain to Him, who seeth the end from the beginning and understands the secrets of all hearts.—C. H. Spurgeon.

Every man has his chain and his log, only it is looser and tighter to one man than to another. And he is more at ease who takes it up than he who drags it.