

## RESTORATION

Isaiah 40:25-31

"To whom will you compare me? Or who is my equal?" says the Holy One. Lift your eyes and look to the heavens: Who created all these? He who brings out the starry host one by one, and calls them each by name. Because of his great power and mighty strength, not one of them is missing.

Why do you say, O Jacob, and complain, O Israel, "My way is hidden from the LORD; my cause is disregarded by my God"? Do you not know? Have you not heard? The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth.

He will not grow tired or weary, and his understanding no one can fathom. He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak. Even youths grow tired and weary, and young men stumble and fall; 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.

---

Experiencing God's restoration:

recognize the awesome power of God

receive His power into our lives.

Questions for further study ... Jan 10<sup>th</sup> '10

1. God says (through Isaiah) "To whom will you compare me? Or who is my equal?" v25. What are some common opinions about what God is like? Some people view God as an uninvolved Creator who stands at a distance to watch his world. What does Isaiah 40:26 reveal about God's involvement?

2. Judah complains that God doesn't know what is happening to her (v27). When have you been tempted to lament that God was unconcerned about your struggles? What hope does Isaiah offer us during such struggles (v28-31)?

Those who know God look to him for help. Describe a time when the Lord renewed your strength or enabled you to "soar on wings like an eagle." Read this information about the word "hope" in v31 that can also be translated as "wait".

**The English word , "wait" has an interesting meaning which could well apply to to our relationship with Christ: it means, {Webster}- "to stay in a place or remain inactive or in anticipation until something expected takes place."**

**It is here that the meaning of the Hebrew word helps us. Because we could ask, "What are we expecting to take place?" The Hebrew word for "wait" is "quvah" and has the meaning "to bind together, as by twisting strands together into a rope". One other Hebrew scholar (Gesenius) gives the definition of this word as "To be robust. To fix one's hope upon Jehovah and to expect His aid."**

**So to wait upon the Lord is " to remain in place in your situation while fixing your hopes on God, and expecting His aid and deliverance, and becoming stronger in your faith in the process."**

Read these passages to see what is also involved in this trust in God. Psalm 27:14, 130:5, Romans 8:24-28, 2 Corinthians 4:16-18, Hebrews 12:1-3.

## CHALLENGE

Look for something you can restore ... something you can give a new lease of life to. Do this as a "picture" of what God wants to do in us and in our community.

- It may be something practical
- It may be a relationship or friendship you want to work on
- It could be that as a small group you want to find something in your area you could work on.