

# Wings

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*“Those who wait on the Lord shall renew their strength;  
they shall mount up with wings like eagles.”  
Isaiah 40:31*



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## Gazing Up Into Heaven

There is nothing wrong with meditation or mental planning. But when those activities turn into pointless daydreaming, we're wasting valuable time.

“And while they looked steadfastly toward heaven as He went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel, who also said, ‘Men of Galilee, why do you stand gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven’” (Ac. 1:10-11).

The apostles had spent the last three and a half years of their lives living, traveling, and working with the Son of God. They had learned much during that time, but especially over the last few weeks, following His death and resurrection. The presuppositions that had confused and hobbled their thinking in earlier days were now swept away by the stark reality of the resurrection. There was now no doubt in their minds—*no doubt*—that Jesus was the Messiah of Israel. But now that they finally saw the whole picture, He was suddenly taken away from them. All they could do was watch Him disappear in the clouds, longing to have Him back in their midst again just a little longer. There was so much more to learn!

But the angels snapped these men out of their spell with a sharp question: “Why do you stand gazing up into heaven?” Jesus did not leave them behind to reminisce about the good old days. He had a job for them to perform, a mission that would transform the world. Jesus would come again, but there was much to do between now and then. The apostles needed to quit staring off into space and get to work.

The behavior of the apostles here illustrates a problem that we all occasionally stumble into. We allow our minds to wander into empty daydreaming about past achievements or future ambitions, not realizing that we are squandering opportunities to accomplish great things *right now*.

This is not a rebuke of time spent in quiet meditation. There is a need for occasionally detaching ourselves from the grind of daily living and reflecting on spiritual things. That activity might even include staring up at the stars that fill the heavens, as we admire the grandeur of God's handiwork. Such an exercise can strengthen our faith and

draw us closer to God (Psa. 8:3-5). It can even inspire us to be more active in God's service. That's time well spent.

Neither is it a criticism of thoughtful planning, some of which may require “thinking” time. A few hours spent in mental preparation can save us a lot of time and aggravation later when executing our plan.

What we are addressing is a pattern of careless thinking that gets stuck on vague “if onlys” and “somedays”, with little attention given to the urgent and achievable tasks that are right in front of us. It's the kind of Walter Mitty existence that fantasizes about all the great things we could, might, or eventually will do, but somehow never get around to doing. We are gazing up into heaven when we should be busy working.

The apostles got the message, and returned to Jerusalem. They spent the rest of their lives in tireless labor for their departed Master, and turned the world upside down as a result. We, too, can accomplish much for the Lord, but only if we quit daydreaming and put our hands to the work before us.

– David King