Message Summary | November 8, 2026

"The Secret of Soaring: From Striving to Soaring"

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Text: Isaiah 40:28–31
Have you not known? Have you not heard? The everlasting God, the Lord, The Creator of the ends of the earth, Neither faints nor is weary. His understanding is unsearchable. 29 He gives power to the weak, And to those who have no might He increases strength. 30 Even the youths shall faint and be weary, And the young men shall utterly fall. 31 But those who wait on the Lord Shall renew their strength; They shall mount up with wings like eagles, They shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.

2 Corinthians 1:3, *Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, 4 who comforts us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort those who are in any trouble, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God. 5 For as the sufferings of Christ abound in us, so our consolation also abounds through Christ.*

God has not called us to live continually in a state of striving, struggling, and depending solely on our own strength. Through Isaiah 40:31, we discover that those who wait on the Lord receive renewed strength and the ability to rise above their circumstances. The secret of soaring is learning to draw upon God's strength rather than relying exclusively on our natural abilities and resources.

Striving is not always negative. It serves an important purpose in our spiritual development. Challenges, difficulties, and limitations provide opportunities to learn about God's faithfulness, discover our strengths, and recognize what we cannot accomplish alone. However, striving is a season of learning, not a permanent place to live. God wants us to grow beyond struggle into greater effectiveness and spiritual maturity.

An important part of this process is understanding our limitations. Human determination is valuable, but it cannot replace spiritual strength. Recognizing what we cannot do allows us to focus on what God has equipped and called us to accomplish. We are laborers together with God, meaning that we have responsibilities requiring faith, obedience, preparation, and action. We do our part, but God does the greater part.

The message also emphasizes that God is the Father of mercies and the God of all comfort (2 Corinthians 1:3–4). His comfort is more than emotional relief; it is divine equipping that provides strength, wisdom, and resources for overcoming life's challenges. Furthermore, the comfort and victories we receive are not intended for ourselves alone. God strengthens us so that we can strengthen and serve others.

Through biblical examples of people responding to Jesus' instructions, we learn that faith requires participation. God's power works in cooperation with our obedience. We cannot expect Him to do everything while we remain passive.

Ultimately, soaring is not about achieving a life without problems. It is about living with a greater source of strength, purpose, and perspective. True success is not measured merely by possessions, accomplishments, or prosperity, but by fulfilling God's purpose and becoming a blessing to others.

Key Takeaways

The secret of soaring is not found in trying harder, but in trusting God more deeply, obeying His instructions, recognizing His grace, and drawing upon His unlimited strength.

When we learn to depend on God's strength while faithfully doing our part, we can move from striving to soaring.

1. Striving is for learning, not for living. Difficulties can teach us important lessons, but we are not meant to remain trapped in struggle.
2. Soaring requires a greater source of strength. Those who place their hope in the Lord receive strength beyond what their natural resources can supply.
3. There is a gift in limitation. Recognizing our limitations helps us discover where God has given us grace and purpose.
4. Faith requires participation. We are laborers together with God. Our obedience and action create opportunities for His power to work.
5. God's comfort equips us for service. Our victories and blessings should become sources of strength and encouragement to others.
6. True success is connected to God's purpose. We are blessed not simply to accumulate things, but to fulfill our calling and help people.

There is so much

we're going to unpack from this text today. I want to begin by sharing this concept that

God is a God of comfort.

He brings comfort in the midst of

any storm and every storm.

He's a God that will rebuild

your walk with Him. He'll rebuild, really rebuild your heart, your mind, your soul, your emotions.

And He's a God that will put into you and put back in you what the world tries to sap out of you.

And God is a God, if we pay attention,

who will give us instruction and wisdom and guidance like no one else can give.

Amen. You believe that?

I know you know it as a believer,

but I want you to practice it as a believer. Sometimes we know things that we're not fully practicing. Amen.

The Bible says, two Corinthians chapter one, another text I want to share with you to start out with,

verse three, if you could read with me.

Blessed be the God and father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and the God of all comfort who comforts us in all of our tribulation

that we may be able to comfort those who are in any trouble with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God.

For as the sufferance of Christ abound in us so our consolation also abounds through Christ. Amen. When you go through things,

you want the victory, you get the victory.

But your victory isn't only your victory,

it's victory for everybody else

that you can talk to and communicate and share your story with. Amen.

So that's why we thank God. He blesses us. We are blessed. We are prosperous. But my blessing, my prosperity, my deliverance, my comfort is not just for me.

As the text said, that we thank God for all his mercies who comforts us in our tribulation that we may be able

to comfort those who are in any trouble with the comfort

with which we have been comforted.

So when God helps you, help somebody else.

That's the whole, that's the whole concept to being in the body of Christ. It's the whole thing about being salt and light.

It's not about, it couldn't be all about you.

It's not, it's not enough purpose to go around, you know.

There have to be a larger reason why we're doing what we're doing and there is, is by the grace of God. I mean, not just in ministry, but in career. Whatever God has you doing, there's a way that God wants you to help somebody and it isn't always through preaching.

What did I say? It isn't always...

No. Mm-mm.

It's by whatever means God has enabled and empowered you. But what's the difference between striving and soaring? Again, our topic is the secret of soaring

from striving to soaring. So the first question is, what is the difference between striving and soaring?

Now we understand

what striving is. We've all had to strive. We've all had to do things. We've been to difficult places. We, we gotta know what striving is.

I think, we think we know what soaring is,

but striving is a part in a prerequisite to soaring.

They didn't say amen to that now, that didn't sound good. Did that, that didn't land too well, did it?

I ain't gonna strive at all. Oh,

stop.

Call it, call it,

call it something else, but it's striving.

But striving isn't all bad as I'll show you. Andre Crouch wrote a song

and one lyric said,

"If I never had a problem,

I would not know that God could solve them."

Now God's not creating problems for you.

He's not sending trouble.

The devil comes still can destroy, not God, that's devil. But life brings all that mess, all that trouble

comes from just living life. And so God just will, okay, well, you're there. Let me help you.

So he'll, he, he,

man, God doesn't have to say any kind of problem. We are creating our own problems.

We're living in a world full of problems. But we had the opportunity through the striving with these problems and things to learn

what God is doing to help us to, to soar.

So I want us to understand that striving

has a purpose, but the purpose of striving is learning.

That's all. It's just for learning. You can't stay in it because it won't take you anywhere, but you can learn if you pay attention to God while you're in that midst of striving and dealing with difficulties and challenges.

So the real issue,

again, is not that when the Lord helps me overcome what I'm dealing with, I'll just feel better.

But no, I'll be able to communicate

and bring comfort to somebody else. Now we say comfort, I don't mean comfort like a big, you know, a big La-Z-Boy chair. I don't mean comfort to sit back in a comfortable chair, watch TV. I don't mean comfort like that. I mean comfort like the armor of God.

I mean comfort like ability.

I mean comfort like God giving you tools and resources, that kind of comfort.

Now of course you need to have some rest, recreation, comfort like that, but Bible comfort

is about the equipping of God. Say Bible comfort

is about the equipping of God.

So please understand that.

What, you know, we, we thank God again for success and blessing,

but God talks about good success. And you can, you can get stuff in this world, you can be successful, you can have stuff.

You work hard,

no problem. You can have money, get some credit, get some stuff. But God talks about good success.

That is success and blessing wrapped up in the purpose of God. Amen.

Amen. So having things don't scare God, having stuff doesn't bother God. Having money is no problem.
The point, the question is
what is the center? How are you centered
in the life that you're living?
So the difference
is that those of us who place our hopes
in the Lord receive strength beyond what our natural resources can supply.
We'll learn more. This is our main point for today.
The difference is that those of us who place our hope in the Lord
receive strength beyond what our natural resources can supply.
Amen.
Now I know about you.
There was a time
when I, I lived, we lived from paycheck to paycheck.
I've been there. Maybe you're there now, okay?
And what that really means is
your,
your outgo
is more than your income
and your upkeep is your downfall.
That means
if I don't get paid this week, I can't pay bills next week.
That's the reality.
But God is able and willing to lift us to a different level
because that's a part of, again, striving.
We learn while we're striving.
And so in that process where we go with the paycheck to paycheck phase,
whether you've been through or going through or will go through it again,
this lesson will show you how to go from striving to soaring.
Amen. Say, Lord, take me
from striving
to soaring.
See, striving is for learning,
not to live there. Right. It's a place to learn
to get to the next level.

All right. And believe me, you keep serving God, keep handling your business the way God said handle your business. And one day you look up and be like us old folk in here.
Old with money.
Amen. Some over here, some over there, some back there.
I thought when I got old as a pastor, we got old,
we gonna get old
and be retired and have no money. Mm-hmm. And I realize
them folk didn't work their whole life
not to have money at the end.
My point is,
you go from
striving
and learning
and then you begin to soar. Yes.
Now life doesn't become easy and perfect at any stage of life.
I'm trying to show us what God is doing.
We don't serve God for nothing.
You didn't serve God for 10, 30, 40, 50 years for nothing. Amen.
I didn't serve God that long just to get all the stuff we may have. Right.
We have all that wrapped up in the purpose of God
to serve his purpose and be a blessing to people.
You wanna get God's attention? Bless somebody.
God said you give to the poor, you're lending to me.
Scripture say that. You give the poor, you lend to God and he shall repay.
And so that's why in a nation
that has,
uh, not respected poor people and vulnerable people,
it was time to change some stuff around and some stuff has changed, okay?
Not that the change will make everything better, but it's, it's a, it's a good start.
So I want us to recognize
that when you're striving,
it's a part of life because we're learning what God can do
and what we can and cannot do.
There is a gift in limitation.
I've taught that before.
Now, both my parents were singers. You know that.
I'm not a singer.

I have a limitation.
I got a gift limitation
because if I though I could sing,
you though I could sing, I may go around telling folk I'm a singer and people say, I, who,
who's gonna tell him?
So I thank God that,
but I'm limited in that, but I'm, but I do other thing. I publish and you know what I do. So, so
when you limit and you accept limitation,
it makes more room
for what you should be focusing on.
All of us can sing. I can sing.
I can sing. You put me in a crowd of a hundred people in a choir. I won't mess it up.
Just don't give me the mic
for a solo.
But
here's the point is part of, part of this striving is to learn your limitation.
Amen. And also learn where you have grace to do things that you're, you've been purposed to do.
Amen? Amen.
We should have determination.
Be determined to do things. I mean, it's important,
but spiritual strength
and human determination aren't the same thing.
Uh, I'm not saying they'll be determined. I'm saying
determination by itself
is limited and won't make a lasting difference.
I'm determined to do this. Well, that's a good heart. That's a good spirit.
But are you any good at it?
I can be determined I'd be good at something
or have grace for something. So that's why we're gonna keep
going back to this theme of, in this whole, this whole message today of how that soaring is about tapping in to a greater resource.
Spiritual strength does not originate in human determination alone.
We should have determination, but being determined by itself won't make a lasting difference.
So we need more than just... And we can do a lot now,
but we're limited
at some point.

The good news is that we are laborers together with God. So in Christ, we can do things

that we could never do on our own.

You know, Jesus told the fishermen to launch out into the deep. See, God has something for us to do. There is something he wants us to do always.

It's not like it's all God, none of us.

It's just that the perspective has to be correct.

Yes, I have a part,

but God's part is the greater part.

So the Bible tells us that Jesus told the fishermen to go back out and launch out into the deep for a catch. He told the, the man who was lame to pick up his bed and walk.

And when he reached for the bed, he, he could stand up. I mean, the miracle happened when he decided to do what Jesus said.

Jesus told a leopard to go show yourself to the priest. That's the last thing a leopard's supposed to do. A leper or diseased person was not to present himself to priests who were holy

before God in a natural sense because they were considered

unclean, ceremonially unclean.

But when Jesus said," Go show yourself to the priest, "said," All right. "And he started walking. He was healed as he went. Hallelujah.

So Jesus honors your decision

to obey him

and it brings blessings and miracles. Jesus asked a boy, uh, for his fish and loaves.

He wanted to feed thousands of people and they had a boy with a few fish and few loaves. And the boy said," Okay, here it is. "And Jesus divided that and multiplied that and fed

several thousand people. Before Jesus raised Lazarus, he told the people," Roll away the stone

from in front of that tomb.

"That took some effort, y'all.

So don't think like or act like Jesus is going to do everything for you.

I'm going to sit back and let him do it all. No, that's not the way it works.

Mm-mm.

No. We are laborers. Say that we are laborers - We are laborers.

Together with God.

He wants you to participate because he wants to use you in this earth.

But he does the greater part.

You know, I do astrophotography, you know, pictures of things and space and all that. You've seen those pictures, some of you. And, and so somebody, uh, I'm on a Facebook club, someone say," Hey, how do you do that? Tell me how you do. "I said," Well,

go to YouTube

and research and study

and invest and get some equipment

and spend the next several weeks and months learning.

"You didn't tell him, pastor? I did tell him.

You get into it.

I told you I called a friend of mine in Dayton, Ohio years ago. I was struggling with something. I said," How do I do that? "He said, he said," Brian, plow your own field. "

That's rude.

He was the kind of, that kind of guy. He wasn't rude. He just told the truth. He did, listen, he just went straight to the truth.

Some folk go straight to the truth. Amen. You ain't rude. It wasn't rude.

You want people to dance around. Well, let me see here.

Pray about it.

Seek God. He said, Brian, plow.