

## viv's weekly encouragement

september 4, 2020

Hi KC Parents!

I've recently returned from vacation, and from this collage of photos here.



You can see it was filled with wonderful moments with our kids and grands! My heart was full as our kids all left for home, and Bob and I had one last day at June Lake, alone.

I realized that though I felt full on one hand, I also had a nagging emptiness deep in my soul. I had an intense longing to sit with Jesus before returning home. I grabbed my journal and went to the lake to just "be" in His presence and behold the beauty around me.

As I sat there taking in the quiet, the peace, and the breathtaking vista before me, I noticed an eagle soaring high above the lake - circling around and around. It was mesmerizing, almost hypnotizing. Suddenly a verse popped in my mind. The one about "soaring like an eagle". I quickly entered those words into my phone and Isaiah 40 was instantly on my screen. (thank God for the internet!)

As I read the beginning verses,

"Comfort, comfort my people with gentle, compassionate words. Speak tenderly from the heart to revive those in *Jerusalem*, and proclaim that their warfare is over," I began to weep.



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I so needed comfort. The comfort that God is present. Comfort in knowing that he sees what's happening in the world right now and that he's not ignoring us. Comfort that the enemy will not win the battle for our souls. Comfort that He's protecting our very lives and blessing our future. I needed tender words to fill my heart!

The entire chapter was so life-giving to me, and of course, ended with the famous quotation: 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.

After taking in the beautiful truths offered in this chapter and gaining a renewed glimpse of the greatness of God, I left that glorious place strengthened, renewed, and soaring in hope, peace, and an excitement to return home and serve him, with all my heart.

Jesus offers us his renewing strength, so we can soar high above our fears, doubts, and weaknesses. He's the one who gives power to the weak and strength to the powerless.

Blessings, Viv Stone