

Where Eagles Soar
Grace Fellowship Church
(2 Chronicles 29-32) (2 Kings 18-20) (Isaiah 36-39)

Hezekiah is Eagle among these Eagles.

King Hezekiah:

2 Kings 18:5-7 ⁵Hezekiah trusted in the LORD, the God of Israel. There was no one like him among all the kings of Judah, either before him or after him. ⁶He held fast to the LORD and did not stop following him; he kept the commands the LORD had given Moses. ⁷And the LORD was with him; he was successful in whatever he undertook.

Five daring practices that set eagles apart:

1. Eagles dare to cultivate _____.

2 Chronicles 29:6-11 ⁶Our parents were unfaithful; they did evil in the eyes of the LORD our God and forsook him. They turned their faces away from the LORD's dwelling place and turned their backs on him. ⁷They also shut the doors of the portico and put out the lamps. They did not burn incense or present any burnt offerings at the sanctuary to the God of Israel. ⁸Therefore, the anger of the LORD has fallen on Judah and Jerusalem; he has made them an object of dread and horror and scorn, as you can see with your own eyes. ⁹This is why our fathers have fallen by the sword and why our sons and daughters and our wives are in captivity. ¹⁰**Now** I intend to make a covenant with the LORD, the God of Israel, so that his fierce anger will turn away from us. ¹¹My sons, do not be negligent now, for the LORD has chosen you to stand before him and serve him, to minister before him and to burn incense."

A. Eagles embrace zeal over _____.

Passion is excitement...Zeal is Commitment...

Passion is rooted in the emotion... Zeal is rooted in the Will.

Passion is a feeling you get for God. Zeal is a Decision you make for God.

Passion is about your HEART FOR GOD. Zeal is about your STRENGTH FOR GOD.

Passion gets married...zeal is how you STAY married.

Passion is what a New believer has.... Zeal is what a lifelong follower of Jesus has.

Passion raises its hands in worship...zeal says no to temptation when no one is looking...

Passion worships God in the light...Zeal can worship God in the dark...when feelings fade and nothing makes sense.

Passion chases spiritual goose bumps...Zeal chooses Spiritual GRIT....

Passion can get pumped about a vision...zeal can work tireless hours for countless years with limited affirmation to actually see the vision realized.

B. Eagles connect their zeal to _____.

In Scripture God is zealous for 3 things: His own NAME; His HOUSE; The next PERSON—The next ONE MATTERS to God...sounds kind of cheesy but it is biblically everywhere...God Leaves the 99 to go after the ONE...zealous for the ONE.

C Eagles allow zeal to _____ them.

Psalm 69:9⁹for zeal for your house consumes me, and the insults of those who insult you fall on me.

2. Eagles dare to get _____.

2 Chronicles 29:3³In the first month of the first year of his reign, he opened the doors of the temple of the LORD and repaired them.

A. Eagles _____ a season ahead while they work the season they are in.

B. Eagles get out in front in their _____.

C. Eagles get out in front before _____.

3. Eagles dare to set the _____.

2 Chronicles 29:3³In the first month of the first year of his reign, he opened the doors of the temple of the LORD and repaired them.

2 Chronicles 29:17¹⁷They began the consecration on the first day of the first month, and by the eighth day of the month they reached the portico of the Lord. For eight more days they consecrated the temple of the Lord itself, finishing on the sixteenth day of the first month.

2 Chronicles 29:20²⁰Early the next morning King Hezekiah gathered the city officials together and went up to the temple of the Lord.

2 Chronicles 29:35-36³⁵ So the service of the temple of the LORD was reestablished.

³⁶Hezekiah and all the people rejoiced at what God had brought about for his people, because it was done so quickly.

Eagles move fast...they set the leadership pace. And they do it without being reckless...

A. Eagles increase pace by arranging their _____ on purpose.

– **What is _____ of me?**

– **What brings the greatest _____ for Elim Fellowship**

- What are other's _____ of me?
- What is personally _____ to me?

4. Eagles dare to leverage _____.

2 Chronicles 30:1 ¹Hezekiah sent word to all Israel and Judah and also wrote letters to Ephraim and Manasseh, inviting them to come to the temple of the LORD in Jerusalem and celebrate the Passover to the LORD, the God of Israel.

King Hezekiah had quick success reestablishing the temple...but he doesn't go on vacation. He builds on the momentum created by the "win"...had a Passover

2 Chronicles 31:1 ¹When all this had ended, the Israelites who were there went out to the towns of Judah, smashed the sacred stones and cut down the Asherah poles. They destroyed the high places and the altars throughout Judah and Benjamin and in Ephraim and Manasseh. After they had destroyed all of them, the Israelites returned to their own towns and to their own property.

After the Passover...which is a win...the people go home and destroy the pagan religious symbols...King Hezekiah's REFORM leads to nationwide REVIVAL...even into the pagan Northern Kingdom

2 Chronicles 31:2 ²Hezekiah assigned the priests and Levites to divisions—each of them according to their duties as priests or Levites—to offer burnt offerings and fellowship offerings, to minister, to give thanks and to sing praises at the gates of the Lord's dwelling.

After seeing the revival...Hezekiah builds on momentum to establish the priesthood...and take up an offering.

When zeal gets you out in front, you set the leadership pace...and God actually accomplishes something through you...what you do with the momentum of that win...is you leverage it for the next win...

2 Chronicles 32:1-8 After all that Hezekiah had so faithfully done, Sennacherib king of Assyria came and invaded Judah. He laid siege to the fortified cities, thinking to conquer them for himself.

2 Chronicles 32:7-8 ⁷"Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or discouraged because of the king of Assyria and the vast army with him, for there is a greater power with us than with him. ⁸With him is only the arm of flesh, but with us is the LORD our God to help us and to fight our battles." And the people gained confidence from what Hezekiah the king of Judah said.

A. Eagles focus on what they can _____ and not what they _____ do.

B. Eagles absorb pressure.

Ministry is a pressure filled environment...here is a short list of different types of pressure that are part of doing ministry.

complexity...time pressure...deadlines...pace...financial pressure...spiritual warfare...change...normal job pressure (Ministry Action Plans-MAPS, reviews and bosses)...purpose pressure (weight of souls)...vision comes with pressure.

C. Eagles understand _____ and pressure are not the same thing.

D. Eagles absorb pressure but resolve stress _____.

2 Chronicles 32:20 ²⁰King Hezekiah and the prophet Isaiah son of Amoz cried out in prayer to heaven about this.

5. Eagles dare to stay _____ in success.

2 Chronicles 32:25–26²⁵But Hezekiah's heart was proud and he did not respond to the kindness shown him; therefore the LORD's wrath was on him and on Judah and Jerusalem.

²⁶Then Hezekiah repented of the pride of his heart, as did the people of Jerusalem; therefore the LORD's wrath did not come on them during the days of Hezekiah.

“Do you wish to rise? Begin by descending. You plan a tower that will pierce the clouds?
Lay first the foundation of humility.” Saint Augustine