

Let Go and Soar

“... but they that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles;...” Isaiah 40:31

This week I had an awesome experience, Doris Grove from the Fillmore congregation and her husband own and operate the glider port in Julian. She has been inviting me to go on a glider ride for some time, and we were finally able to co-ordinate our schedules. With the sun shining brightly on the autumn leaves, it was a beautiful day for a bird's eye view of Happy Valley.

They got me all buckled in, and showed me what not to touch, connected us to the tow plane and away we went down the runway. Before I knew it we were at 4000 feet, and Doris released the tow cable. I watched as the tow cable recoiled toward the tow plane. The plane banked left and we to the right.

Now I have flown in big commercial jets and small private planes, but a glider is a whole different experience. No noisy engine-- just the sound of the air rushing over the glider, and you effortlessly soar the wind currents. We had let go of the clamoring man- made power of propulsion, fighting against the laws of gravity, and were now being raised up by the laws of air flow and lift. Not fighting creation but joined with the powers of creation. I took lots of pictures, but before I knew it, we were touching down on the runway again.

That night I loaded the pictures on my computer and shared them with my family. But I noticed something was missing. I could tell by their expressions that the pictures didn't hold the same excitement for them as they did for me. Then I remembered something Doris' husband said, "We just can't explain to folks what it is we do. We can only give them the chance to experience it."

This month we focus on the second of the five practices of fruitful congregations-- Passionate Worship. I can't help but think that when it comes to truly passionate worship we just can't explain to folks what it is we do; we can only provide the opportunity and invite them to experience it.

A few weeks ago in a sermon about passionate worship I said that worship by its very nature is passionate, for we worship that which impassions us whether it's money, power, prestige, pleasure, self or God.



As I reflect on my life in the church, I have to admit there were many years I attended church more than I worshiped the Lord. I'm not saying that those years were not fruitful. I learned lots about the Lord-- the salvation He offers us, the life we are to lead in response to His love. But still something was missing. I wasn't sure just what it was until I began to hear folks share about their experience of God and the transformation that brought.

I realized I hadn't allowed myself to be impassioned by God. I wouldn't let go and let God be in control. Fear kept me from the experience. Thanks be to God there came a time when I did finally let go and gave the Lord control. I became impassioned. Suddenly Bible study became worship. Serving others became worship. Daily devotions became worship. My time in the woods hunting became worship. I began to see God's hand of provision and sense the Spirit's leading and **worship became passionate.**

Are you impassioned by God? Does God stir your Spirit? If so, worship the Lord daily in everything you do, in private and in public, in word and deed. Offer passionate worship in Sunday's service.

Does it seem like something is missing in your spiritual life? Is life weighing you down with despair, hopelessness, guilt, loneliness, frustration, stress? Maybe you're still learning about Jesus more than walking with Jesus; hanging on to control; afraid to give Jesus control of your life. Are you willing, courageous enough to let go and soar with the Lord?

Maybe this is all new to you. You've never been invited to church or told about Jesus. But yet the Spirit has stirred you with the knowledge that there is more to life than the day to day grind, and you want to do more than struggle against the forces of this world. Your spirit wants to soar.

Come worship the Lord for ***"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."* Isaiah 40:31**

Blessings

Pastor Duane