

God Gave Us the Tools We Need to Fly
Martinwood Christian Church

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Good morning and it's great to see everyone today. Its always a great day when we can meet and praise the Lord for what He's done. As you know, one thing I've been thinking on is about our spirit.

What is your spirit? Has it changed over time? It is where you'd like to have it for your time in life? If not, how would you change it? The first thing is to decide where you are. What you believe in and where you want to go.

Sometimes our spirit is dictated by our circumstances and not by the Holy Spirit, or the spirit that was put inside you. In the first chapter of Genesis it states God's Spirit hovered over the waters; then from His spirit He created light and separated the night from the day. That was the start of Him creating the universe and who knows what else.

I see this like when YOU make or create something. In the end it may or may not be what it started out being, but you've created something. It's like the fence around Martinwood Church. Many people's spirit went into tearing down the old fence and putting up the new fence. Or the spirit behind the Christmas decorations, the Sunday morning coffee, the painting, finishing the walls and so on.

People's spirits are within each and everything we do. So what's your spirit? Some determine their spirit by their circumstances, not by what God has said you are. They base their life, their spirit upon what they see, not their faith.

I heard a story about an eagle that grew up in a chicken coop. He grew up with chickens. Because of his circumstances the eagle believed he was a chicken. The only thing that was around him as an example were chickens. They looked like chickens, they acted like chickens, they even told him he was no more or no less than a chicken.

Isn't that kind of like us? We become what we hang around. If our circumstances and less than us, our spirit diminishes based upon those

circumstances. We become convinced we'll never amount to much more than the people and circumstances we associate with.

We get this attitude of "that's the way they do it, why should I be any different? or "If they can't do it, how can I do it?" The thing is deep down in your spirit, you know that is not you.

You were born for something more. You were born for greatness. Your blood line is not that of a chicken, but of a King. Your blood line is the King of kings blood line. Your spirit says you are different, but somehow we allow our circumstances to dictate our spirit.

It's like this eagle, all he'd ever known was being in this chicken coop all his life. Because chickens don't fly, he'd never tried to fly, even though eagles in flight are some of the most graceful birds, still, he never tried to fly because his circumstances told him he couldn't fly.

He may have spread his wings once or twice, but his friends kept telling him "you can't fly, you're a chicken" and he believed them. He believed his circumstances. He listened to the idle chatter telling him he'll never be any more than just a chicken.

Story about north Omaha.....

Romans 12:12

And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what *is* that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

God gave us wings, he gave us big wings to fly, not to just peck around on the ground and cluck all day. God created us to do great things, miraculous things, but we can't stay a chicken and still do God's work.

One day this eagle looked up. He saw another eagle gracefully flying, catching the wind and soaring higher and higher, gracefully with his wings spread out wide. This eagle looked around and all he saw was chickens

that couldn't fly. All it took was a four foot fence to keep them contained. They did just as all the other chickens did.

He watched as that eagle soared above him and something rose up inside him. It was like an overcoming sensation that he too wanted to fly. He wanted to be like the eagle he had seen. His spirit was changing.

He spread his wings and started flapping them. The chickens told him he'd never fly; he'd never be anything more than a chicken, but as his spirit changed he realized he didn't belong with the chickens. He belonged above it all. He wanted to soar with the other eagles.

He kept flapping his wings. He tried to fly; he knew his destiny. He knew he couldn't stay amongst the chickens any more. He flew head on into the fence. The chickens laughed at him and said "what are you doing, you're a chicken You'll never fly." They tried to keep him down. They tried to keep him a chicken.

**"If we will only surrender ourselves
utterly to the Lord, and will trust Him
perfectly, we shall find our souls
"mounting up with wings as eagles" to
the "heavenly places" in Christ Jesus,
where earthly annoyances or sorrows
have no power to disturb us."**

Hannah Whitall Smith

His spirit kept changing. He looked around and realized where he was and knew he needed to make a change. He needed to be amongst the other eagles, soaring, above it all, floating effortlessly on the wind.

He kept trying and trying all the time being laughed at, cajoled, called names; just like the people I worked with in North Omaha.

He'd try to lift off the ground, but nosedived into the dirt. He'd pick himself up, dust himself off and try again and again. One day when he was just about to give up and give in to the chickens something inside his spirit rose up. He said today is the day. Today is the day my life will change. He made the decision that he needed to be somewhere else in his life.

Sometimes we don't know why something does not happen. Its because it may not have been time, but you never gave up. You know you don't have a chicken spirit, you have an eagle spirit.

He saw where he was, in the chicken coop, and he knew where he needed to be; on the air currents; riding the wind. He just was not sure how to get there. What he did know was God gives us the tools we need to get where He needs us to go when we us Truth as our compass.

He backed way up as far as he could; and started running. Running faster and faster. His wings started spreading out. It was his time. As he was just about to go head long into the fence His wings opened wide just in time to catch that afternoon gust and away he went; soaring, where his spirit told him he needed to be.

We have the tools, you have the tools. You just have to decide where there is. Where do you want to be in 10 or 20 years? Where do you want to be in one year; where do you want to be next year at this time, what do you want to be changed in you, in your spirit?

Revelation 2:7

“He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes I will give to eat from the tree of life, which is in the midst of the Paradise of God.” ’

But just like the eagle in the chicken coop, you already have the tools to get you wherever there is, as long as you use Truth as your compass.

**This week decide where you will soar.
God gave you the tools to take you
where He wants you to be. Use His
Truth as your compass and you'll see
the world a whole lot differently.**