

Wings

*“Those who wait on the Lord shall renew their strength;
they shall mount up with wings like eagles.”
Isaiah 40:31*



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Keep It Simple

The universe around us is filled with mysteries that challenge our thinking. It's okay to pursue these questions—but not to the detriment of that which is simple and obvious.

“My heart is not haughty, nor my eyes lofty. Neither do I concern myself with great matters, nor with things too profound for me” (Psa. 131:1).

Humans have a fascination with the mysterious. Given that we live in a universe of mysteries, we will never run out of questions to occupy our attention. Consequently, we are always pushing the boundaries of our knowledge, seeking to understand everything about everything.

This pursuit of the unknown is generally healthy; for our learning contributes to our growth. But there is a danger that this fascination with the obscure can become an obsession that blinds us to the most obvious realities of our existence. The problem is not the pursuit of these questions, but pursuing them to the neglect of more fundamental truths that we can and should understand. That imbalance can be deadly.

That's why David placed limits on his consideration of such matters. He recognized there were some things in life that were simply “too profound” for him, no matter how much energy he

expended trying to unravel them. Humility dictated that he simply accept the limits of his knowledge, and concentrate on what he *did* understand.

When Paul addressed the Greek philosophers in Athens, he was speaking to people who “spent their time in nothing else but either to tell or to hear some new thing” (Ac. 17:21). This thirst for new knowledge generally served the Greeks well. Indeed, even today we benefit from the Greeks' studies of philosophy, politics, mathematics, science, architecture, and other disciplines.

But in their pursuit of all these areas of knowledge, the Greeks lost sight of the most basic truth of all: the nature of God. That's why Paul's lecture to them was devoted to that simple proposition (v. 22-31). Until they got that first principle sorted out, their great learning was merely groping in the dark (v. 27). (Which explains, by the way, why the glory of Greece was only a fading memory by Paul's day. Their failure to grasp the nature of God and His standard of moral righteousness resulted in a level of corruption that debased their culture.)

The same threat faces us today. There are many questions that God has not directly answered in His word, and the evidence of nature is inconclusive: Is there alien life elsewhere in the universe? How old is the earth? How can we explain the deity of Christ?

Some people have the answers to all these questions—and are not hesitant to share them with the rest of us. But this kind of certitude reveals a pride that runs counter to the humility of David.

Others go in the opposite direction: They not only admit that they do not have the answers, but are so enthralled by the unknowable nature of these questions that they see *everything* in life as unknowable, complicated by hidden meanings and alternative explanations. These folks can't see the obvious right in front of their noses..

In our exploration of life, it is good that we ask questions, seek understanding, and grow in our knowledge. But we must be careful that we not let the things that are “too profound” become a stumbling block to knowing and doing the things that are simple.

– David King