The Empty Nest

The morning was quiet, the sun began poking it’ rays through the trees in our yard, the birds were chirping and the small, dull roar of the interstate miles away could be barely heard. My attention was drawn to a small wren who kept flying around frantically as I began to rock in the porch rockers and I noticed, she, or he, was trying to tend to a nest that was just above my head in a big Boston fern hanging on the post. As she began to chirp more and more intentionally, another wren began to fly in and out of the porch, landing on different rockers and brick postings as if to be sending warnings. As I left the rocker to step away from the porch to get a better look, I realized that in that nest above my head, were two baby wrens, skin still visible, yet freshly covered by feathers, but strong enough to begin fluttering about their nest.

As I stepped back from their nest, the adult wrens took turns flying in and out of the nest to feed their young and care for them. The adult wren, however, upon sharing a bit of nutrition, began to push around one of the wrens so that it began to flutter around the nest and out onto the fern leaves. As she continued to push the little ones, I realized that today was the day that they took flight and left their nest. They were being taught how to fly and take their place in the environment that was theirs to begin exploring.

My thoughts were then turned to our heavenly Father, who cares for us with such intention, hope, and aspirations to fly on our own into a world that He has created for us to explore. What that feels like to a parent, some of us can truly identify with, and others have yet to experience that. But God………what must that feel like for Him as He knew our name before we were even a thought in our parent’s minds. Scripture says in Psalm 139: 15-18 15 “You were there while I was being formed in utter seclusion! 16You saw me before I was born and scheduled each day of my life before I began to breathe. Every day was recorded in your book!

17-18How precious it is, Lord, to realize that you are thinking about me constantly! I can’t even count how many times a day your thoughts turn toward me.[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Psalm+139&version=TLB#fen-TLB-14038a)] And when I waken in the morning, you are still thinking of me!”

As I watched these little wrens find their strength to leave the nest, I felt the emotion in being a parent myself of four beautiful daughters who are all taking flights of their own. Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it (Proverbs 22:6) came to mind not only as I pray for my own children, but in recognition that God Himself, weaves that into His thoughts for humanity as He watches us all take our own flight to find our place in this world.

When He, God, takes place in our hearts and begins to nourish us with scripture and comes to our side to hear every thought in our mind, He makes Himself available not only for a moment, but for an eternity. There is a hymn, “In the Garden” that says in the second verse, “He speaks, and the sound of His voice, is so sweet the birds hush their singing, and the melody that He gave to me, within my heart is ringing. And He walks with me, and He talks with me, And He tells me I am His own, and the joy we share as we tarry there, None other has ever known.”

This is a relationship, with such love and hopes for each of us to grow strong and take flight into this world, and with that, fly freely with no intimidation or worry. However, since the Garden of Eden, humanity has adopted a free will. That free will (sinful nature) has created flight patterns in much of humanity that have led us farther and farther away from the safety of provision of our heritage. That heritage of saving grace, “For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith--and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God” found in Ephesians 2:8 seems to be a faint whisper in minds of many who choose to ignore the sound of God’s voice as He sends warnings through the heavens that He is returning soon to claim His own.

“But understand this that in the last days there will come times of difficulty. For people will be lovers of self, lovers of money, proud, arrogant, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, heartless, unappeasable, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not loving good, treacherous, reckless, swollen with conceit, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, having the appearance of godliness, but denying its power,” 2 Timothy 3:1-5. “For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom, and there will be famines and earthquakes in various places,” Matthew 24:7.

As we wake each day to the fall of humanity, as we witness those turning their backs on Scripture, Prayer, Marriage between a man and a woman, and falling into the clutches of false religions, oh how He (God) must sigh a heavy sigh that His children have left the nest and have fallen away. Again, how His heart must long for that time in the garden alone with each of us.

May our prayer be His prayer as we go forward each day in hope for those that have fallen from the nest and taken flight into dangerous and destructive patterns that they will hear that still small voice God’s voice calling them home, directing them to return to their heritage that has been bought with a price for their freedom, their joy, and their eternal gain………

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