

He Stirreth the Nest



*The Study of the Eagle — Why
He Stirs the Nest*

ELDER KEITH JOEL WALKER



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Written by
Elder Keith Joel Walker

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Key Texts

- Deuteronomy 32:11 (KJV): “As an eagle stirreth up her nest, fluttereth over her young...”
- Isaiah 40:31
- Exodus 19:4
- Job 39:27–30

Sermon Goal

Help the congregation recognize the activity of God’s Spirit that “stirs the nest” — a Holy Ghost stirring that awakens, prepares, tests, strengthens, and launches God’s people into Kingdom purpose.

Outline

I. Introduction

(2–4 minutes)

- Open with Deuteronomy 32:11. Read the verse slowly and paint the picture: an eagle at the nest, moving, flapping, preparing the young.
- State the theme: God “stirs the nest” — He does not let us remain comfortable in infancy when He’s calling us to flight.

II. Brief Natural (Scientific) Study of the Eagle — facts to ground the metaphor (3–5 minutes)

- Identity: Bald/Golden eagles (*Haliaeetus* spp.) — strong, long-lived raptors known for keen eyesight, powerful wings, and elaborate nests (aeries).
- Nesting behavior:
 - Eagles build and reuse large nests, adding materials year by year.
 - Parents frequently rearrange and add to the nest; they “stir” the nest — raking, repositioning, flapping near the young — actions that awaken and encourage fledging.
 - Parental behaviors include fluffing, wing-fluttering and intentional movements that provoke the eaglet to exercise wings and attempt flight.
 - The biological purpose of nest-stirring: to rouse the young, strengthen them, encourage independence, and prepare them for the downward and outward thrust of flight.
 - Short spiritual application: God uses natural patterns to teach spiritual realities — the same way an eagle stirs its nest, the Lord stirs His people.

III. Scripture Portraits of the Eagle (3–5 minutes)

- Deuteronomy 32:11 — the parent-like care of God.
- Job 39:27–30 — the eagle’s keen sight and thrilling ascent; God’s sovereign design for creatures to know their season.

- Exodus 19:4 / Isaiah 40:31 — God bearing, renewing strength, enabling flight.
- Tie these together: protection, preparation, renewal, empowerment.

IV. Main Sermon Points — Why He Stirs the Nest (4–6 points; 25–30 minutes total)

(For each point: read a supporting scripture, illustrate with the eagle’s behavior, apply pastorally, give a practical exhortation.)

Point 1 — To Awaken the Sleeping (Conviction & Rousing)

- Scripture: Deut. 32:11; Isaiah 51:9–11 (call to awaken)
- Eagle fact: Parents flap and stir to rouse sluggish young.
- Application: The Spirit will stir conscience and heart to wake dead religion or spiritual slumber.
- Exhortation: Respond to the stirring — repent, pray, seek revival.

Point 2 — To Prepare for Flight (Training & Empowerment)

- Scripture: Isaiah 40:31; Ex. 19:4
- Eagle fact: Nest-stirring forces eaglets to exercise

wings and build muscle; parents sometimes let them struggle.

- Application: God's stirring prepares you for ministry — trials, instruction, Holy Ghost baptism that gives strength to rise.
- Practical step: Accept training: discipleship, fasting, study, Holy Ghost expectation.

Point 3 — To Strengthen Through Trials (Refinement and Endurance)

- Scripture: James 1; Romans 5:3–5; Job passages about trial leading to maturity.
- Eagle fact: Aerial practice and initial failed flights are part of becoming a strong flier.
- Application: When God stirs your nest (life is shaken), it is often to grow endurance and faith.
- Pastoral care: Encourage perseverance; pray for strength and trust God.

Point 4 — To Remove the Weak or Ungodly Weight (Purging & Pruning)

- Scripture: Hebrews 12:5–11; Malachi/prophetic passages on purging.
- Eagle fact: The parent may jostle or remove unfit material; nature's way is to clear the nest for healthy growth.
- Application: God may strip comforts, idols, or

relationships that hinder flight.

- Call to holiness: Let God cleanse; don't cling to dead things.

Point 5 — To Teach Dependence (Learning to Be Carried and Then to Soar)

- Scripture: Exodus 19:4; Deut. 32:11 (God bore Israel); Psalm 91 imagery.
- Eagle fact: Parents carry food, warm the young, then bear them on wings until they can fly.
- Application: God bears us through seasons, but also calls us to move from being carried to standing and flying in faith.
- Invitation: Accept both God's carrying and His call to responsibility.

Point 6 — To Signal Judgment and Swift Deliverance (Prophetic Movement)

- Scripture: Ezekiel & prophetic imagery (use sparingly, as appropriate).
- Eagle fact: Eagles are swift and decisive predators — their movement is immediate and powerful.
- Application: God's stirring can herald swift change — either judgment on sin or sudden deliverance for his remnant.
- Prophetic exhortation: Be ready; align with God.

V. Practical Applications for the Congregation

(5–8 minutes)

- How to respond when God stirs:
- Be alert: Listen for the Spirit's stirring in prayer and scripture.
- Submit to correction and training: join discipleship, accountability, altar ministry.
- Don't repair to the nest: avoid clinging to comfort that keeps you from flight (sin, fear, complacency).
- Expect the Holy Ghost to empower you to fly: pursue tongues, gifts, boldness for evangelism and ministry.
- Invest in renewing the nest (family/home): rebuild and strengthen what will launch the next generation.

VI. Prophetic and Poetic Encouragement

(3–5 minutes)

- Declare: The Spirit of the Eagle stirs now to awaken a people for the harvest — there will be flight, restoration, and harvest.
- Short prophetic prayers/declarations for boldness, restored vision, release of gifts, and generational blessing.

VII. Altar Call / Response

(5–10 minutes)

- Invite those who feel the stirring to come forward for prayer, repentance, Holy Ghost baptism, or impartation.
- Suggested prayers: for courage to leave the nest, for renewal of strength (Isaiah 40:31), for purging and sanctification.

VIII. Closing (2–3 minutes)

- Recap the main image: God as the Eagle who stirs the nest — He awakens, prepares, purifies, bears, and sends.
- Final exhortation: Do not fear the stirrings — they are preparatory for flight. Yield to the Spirit.

Appendices for Pulpit Booklet

- Suggested Scripture Readings for further study: Deut. 32:10–12; Job 39:27–30; Isa. 40:28–31; Ex. 19:4.
- Suggested Hymns/Songs: “On Eagle’s Wings,” “Borne on Eagles’ Wings” (or other Pentecostal chorus), revival songs encouraging flight and fire.
- Prayer Points:
 - For revival: awaken the sleeping church.
 - For deliverance: remove hindrances to flight.
 - For impartation: release of Holy Ghost power to soar.
 - For families: nests repaired and strengthened for

the next generation.

- Small Group Discussion Questions:
- When has God “stirred your nest”? How did you respond?
- What in your life might be keeping you from flying?
- What steps will you take this week to obey the Spirit’s stirring?
- Quick Preacher Notes:
- Use a living illustration or a short video/photo of an eagle stirring a nest if available.
- Allow time for altar ministry and expect emotional responses; the image touches parental and militant themes.
- Balance exhortation with pastoral comfort: emphasize God’s care (He stirs because He loves and intends flight).

Closing Prophetic Declaration
(example to be spoken)

- “As the eagle stirs her nest and rouses her young, so the Spirit of the Lord is stirring His church. Prepare to rise. Receive fresh strength. Learn to fly on the wings of the Holy Ghost. Amen.”

The eagle — a long-lived, high-flying raptor — combines extraordinary biology with striking behavioral patterns that lend themselves to a distinct model of leadership development. Studying an eagle’s life through the lens of leadership yields a staged roadmap: dependence and formation, guided risk and skill acquisition, solitary mastery and strategic vision, and finally stewardship and succession. This study outlines those stages, highlights the features that set eagles apart from other creatures, and translates natural behaviors into concrete leadership lessons and exercises.

I.

Life Stages of an Eagle

(Biological Outline + Leadership Metaphor)

1. Egg — Potential and Protected Purpose

- **Biology:** Development in a shell within a nest; entirely dependent on parents for warmth and security.
- **Leadership metaphor:** Seed-stage identity and purpose. The leader-in-waiting has latent potential and needs safe context and values to form.
- **Practical questions:** What core purpose and values are forming in you? What environment protects and

nurtures your potential?

2. Nestling/Hatchling — Intense Dependence and Formative Modeling

- Biology: Newly hatched, fed and sheltered constantly; learns by being fed and observed.
- Leadership metaphor: Apprenticeship. Learning basic skills, absorbing norms, internalizing behavior by close observation of role models.
- Challenge: Trusting the process while receiving direct care and instruction.

3. Fledgling — First Flights, Guided Risk-Taking

- Biology: First wing-beats and falling from the nest, practiced under parental encouragement; many early attempts fail but are vital for learning to fly.
- Leadership metaphor: Early experiments and delegated responsibility. Leaders-in-training take risks aided by mentors who “catch” them if they fall.
- Key lesson: Growth requires guided exposure to risk and opportunities to fail safely.

4. Juvenile/Subadult — Independence with Refinement

- Biology: Able to fly and hunt but less efficient; continues learning hunting techniques and territory

navigation.

- Leadership metaphor: Rising responsibility with imperfect execution. The leader must refine strategy, develop resilience, and adapt to complexity.
- Challenge: Sustaining progress without overreliance on prior safety nets.

5. Adult — Mastery, Strategic Vision, Territory & Partnership

- Biology: Peak physical capability and hunting efficiency; often territorial and may form long-term pair bonds; leads hunting and nest defense.
- Leadership metaphor: Full leadership: setting vision (vantage point), making strategic decisions, protecting and organizing the team, forming alliances/partnerships.
- Skill set: Situational awareness, precision action, high standards, selective delegation.

6. Elder/Steward — Mentorship, Legacy and Succession

- Biology: Older eagles may become less reproductively active but help maintain nest sites and teach young; some species show prolonged site fidelity.
- Leadership metaphor: Stewardship and succession planning. A mature leader shifts toward coaching,

preserving institutions, and orchestrating transfers of responsibility.

- Tasks: Create structures for continuity, institutional memory, and the next generation's growth.

II.

What Makes Eagles Different — *Distinctive Biological and Behavioral Traits Relevant to Leadership*

- Aerial vantage and strategic oversight: Eagles use height and wide vision to survey opportunities and threats — a natural metaphor for strategic perspective and situational awareness.
- Exceptional visual acuity: Enables precise targeting and timing — analogous to data-driven decision-making and focused execution.
- Power + precision: Eagles combine raw strength with exact timing (talons, stoop) — leaders need both resources and disciplined timing.
- Apprenticeship via demonstration: Parents teach primarily by modeling and controlled exposure to risk rather than verbal instruction — leadership through example and scaffolding.
- Long-term pair bonds and nest fidelity: Many eagles invest in stable partnerships and locations, emphasizing relationship durability and institutional continuity.
- Solitary apex role: Unlike pack animals, eagles

largely operate as mostly solitary hunters (though paired socially), highlighting self-reliance combined with selective collaboration.

- Use of environmental forces: Eagles ride thermals rather than flapping constantly—leading by using leverage and systems, not brute force.
- Longevity and seasonal rhythms: Long life and cyclic reproductive effort encourage planning across decades rather than short-termism.

III.

Leadership Model Derived from an Eagle's Life — *Four Core Principles*

1. Elevation (vision + perspective)

- Learn to gain height (literal or metaphorical) to see patterns and horizons.
- Practice: Schedule weekly “aerial-time”: a period for high-level thinking away from operational noise.

2. Apprenticeship (teaching by doing)

- Provide scaffolding: give high-potential team members “first flights” with support, not directives.
- Practice: Design tiered shadowing and graduated autonomy plans.

3. Strategic leverage (use of environment/resources)

- Find and ride “thermals” — leverage partners, systems, technology to multiply effect.
- Practice: Map three leverage points in your organization where small inputs produce disproportionate outcomes.

4. Succession & stewardship (legacy)

- Plan for succession early; protect the “nest” (culture, systems, reputation) for the next generation.
- Practice: Document institutional knowledge; mentor named successors with clear milestones.

IV.

Comparative Notes —

How Eagle Leadership Differs from Other Creatures' Models

- vs. social pack animals (wolves, primates): Packs emphasize collective coordination, negotiated hierarchies, and frequent interaction; eagle model centers on individual mastery, vertical perspective, and selective partnership.
- vs. flocking birds (starlings, geese): Flocking models prioritize distributed leadership and synchronous movement; eagles prefer solitary strategic moves and high-stakes precision.
- vs. eusocial insects (bees, ants): Those systems emphasize distributed, rule-bound roles

and redundancy; eagle leadership emphasizes discretionary judgment, demonstration, and mentorship.

- vs. large mammals with long childhoods (elephants, whales): These do emphasize social teaching and memory, closer to eagles in long-term mentorship, but elephants lead through social bonds and consensus more than the eagle’s aerial strategic dominance.

V.

Practical Toolkit — *Exercises & Metrics for Leaders* *Modeled on Eagle Stages*

- “First Flight” Challenge: Assign a rising leader a time-bound, visible project with a mentor who intervenes only at predefined checkpoints.
- “Vantage Audit”: Once a month, step back and write a one-page assessment of environmental opportunities and threats you can see now that you couldn’t from the operational floor.
- “Thermal Mapping”: Identify top 3 sources of leverage (people, processes, platforms). For each, note one small change that will yield a high lift.
- “Nest Care Review”: Quarterly culture check — what are you protecting that matters most? List three concrete actions to preserve it for successors.
- Leadership metrics: sightlines (how often do you

step back), flight hours (time invested in mentoring others), successful fledglings (number of direct reports promoted or given new roles), nest health (retention, morale indicators).

VI. Reflective Questions for Each Stage

- Egg: What core convictions am I incubating? What environment protects that incubation?
- Nestling: Who are my models? How am I internalizing their behavior?
- Fledgling: Where can I take a guided risk now? Who will “catch” me?
- Juvenile: What skills need repeated practice? Where am I still inefficient?
- Adult: What is my strategic vantage? Whom am I protecting and why?
- Steward: What legacy structures must I create before stepping back?

Conclusion

The eagle’s life maps neatly onto a staged leadership journey: formation under protection, guided risk and skill-building, independent mastery from strategic vantage, and finally stewardship for the next generation. Unique eagle traits — aerial perspective, exceptional focus, teaching by demonstration, and the art of using environmental lift — make its leadership

model distinct from the more collective, distributed, or rule-bound models found in many other species. For human leaders, the eagle offers a powerful template: cultivate height of vision; teach by doing; learn to use leverage; and plan your legacy so the nest endures.

- Adapt this model to a leadership development program for an organization,
- Create a 6–12 month “Eagle Leadership” curriculum with milestones and workshops,

Here are the main Biblical passages that use the eagle / wing imagery and the classic Rashi (and Midrashic) explanations — especially the famous “stirring of the nest” image in Deuteronomy 32:11.

1. Deuteronomy 32:10–12 (esp. v.11)

- Verse (key phrase): “Like an eagle that stirreth up its nest, that fluttereth over its young, spreading out its wings...”
- Rashi (summary): Rashi cites the Midrash: God cared for Israel like an eagle cares for its young. The image of “stirring the nest” (וּקַרְרוּעֵי) is explained by the Midrash as an eagle that shakes the nest so the fledglings fall, then catches and bears them on its wings — i.e., God roused Israel out of Egypt, tested

and uplifted them, and carried them to Sinai (the shaking leads to flight; the harshness leads to being taken up). Rashi emphasizes God's active, parental care and the dramatic way He brought Israel out and elevated them.

2. Exodus 19:4

- Verse (key phrase): “You have seen what I did to Egypt... I bore you on eagles' wings and brought you to Me.”
- Rashi (summary): Rashi reads this as a description of Divine deliverance and protection: God carried Israel from Egypt to Sinai as an eagle carries its young — a miraculous, protective conveyance. Rashi links the image to God's providential, parental role in the Exodus.

3. Psalm 91:4 (and parallel passages: Psalms 17:8; 36:7)

- Verse (key phrase in 91:4): “He will cover you with His pinions, and under His wings you shall take refuge.”
- Rashi (summary): Rashi explains “wings/pinions” as Divine protection and shelter. The metaphor expresses trust in God's care; Rashi may connect the refuge image to the Exodus/Sinai motif of God's protective guidance.

4. Isaiah 40:31

- Verse (key phrase): “They that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles.”
- Rashi (summary): Rashi interprets the eagle imagery metaphorically: those who hope in God will be spiritually elevated, regain strength, and rise above adversity, like an eagle mounting up on high.

Notes and Sources

Rashi’s comments on Deuteronomy 32:11 and Exodus 19:4 explicitly cite and rely on Midrashic tradition (e.g., Devarim Rabbah / Midrash Tanchuma themes). The Deut. 32:11 “stirring the nest” passage is the classic locus for the “shaking the nest so the young fall and are borne on the wings” Midrashic image.