

Title: **“Renew their Strength”**

Text: **Isaiah 40:25-31**

INTRODUCTION

1. Celebrating Bethany’s 49th Anniversary
2. Focus of our Celebration
 - a) The LORD as our God
 - b) The strength that He Has given to us all these years

A FREQUENT PROBLEM DECLARED

*“Why do you say, O Jacob,
And speak, O Israel:
‘My way is hidden from the LORD,
And my just claim is passed over by my God?’ ”* *Isaiah 40:27*

1. Declaration of ancient Israel
2. Discouragement of the nation
 - a) Their ways are hidden to the LORD
 - b) Their “just claim” is passed over by God
3. Despair of the nation
 - a) Deep and dreary feelings
 - b) Dark and Disconsolate attitude

GOD'S FIRST CHALLENGE

*"Have you not known?
Have you not heard?
The everlasting God, the LORD,
The Creator of the ends of the earth,
Neither faints nor is weary.
His understanding is unsearchable."* *Isaiah 40:28*

1. The Problem does not lie with God
2. The Problem identified:
 - a) A lack of knowledge
 - b) A lack of Faith
3. The First Challenge is to deepen knowledge of God
4. Let us discover afresh:
 - a) The everlasting God
 - b) The LORD
 - c) The Creator of the ends of the earth
 - d) He neither faints nor is weary
 - e) His understanding is unsearchable

GOD'S SECOND CHALLENGE

²⁹ *"He gives power to the weak,
And to those who have no might He increases strength.*

³⁰ *Even the youths shall faint and be weary,
And the young men shall utterly fall"* *Isaiah 40:29-30*

1. The Weak may find Power from God
2. Those who have no might can find increased strength

3. Human strength is limited indeed:

- a) The glory of youth is their strength
- b) Yet, they can be weary and they can utterly fall

GOD'S THIRD CHALLENGE

*"But those who wait on the LORD
Shall renew their strength;
They shall mount up with wings like eagles,
They shall run and not be weary,
They shall walk and not faint." Isaiah 40:31*

1. To learn to wait on the LORD

- a) In patience
- b) In perseverance
- c) In prayer
- d) In person

2. What we may discover as we wait on the LORD

- a) Renewal of Strength
- b) Rising up with the wings of eagles
- c) Running and not wearied out
- d) Walking and not fainting

CONCLUSION

- 1. Let us ascribe Strength to God as we look back 49 years
- 2. Let us apply God's Strength as we commence our 50th year
- 3. Let us aspire to finding even greater Strength in the year ahead