

*“...those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.”*

**Isaiah 40:31**

When I was a kid, Lent meant giving up something I enjoyed or considered a bad habit. However, in looking back at Scripture, I see that the Lenten season not only symbolizes Jesus’ phenomenal willpower, but the awesome strength of God. He wants to share that strength with all of us and truly know that all things are possible through Him. In Isaiah 40:31, it says that *“...those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.”*

I can’t tell you how many times throughout the week I think of Jesus’ embodiment of this verse in relation to the many things I feel I can’t do. Simple things, things that pose both mental and physical hurdles: taking out the garbage or paying the bills at the end of a long day, putting in the extra time at work to finish a task correctly, running that extra half-mile when my legs are aching and my lungs are burning.

I remember when Piper and I decided to leave LA and move to South Florida. Our oldest daughter was not yet 3, we were expecting our second child, we didn’t have a place to live, and I had no job (and thus, no income or insurance). Talk about a leap of faith. However, we prayed a lot about our decision and my thoughts kept returning to the ultimate sacrifice Jesus made for us all, and one that is worth mentioning as we approach the Easter season: our move was nothing compared to what our Savior faced leading up to His crucifixion. If we prayed and relied on God, we were sure to land on our feet. Sure enough, He answered our prayers and every day that goes by, we thank God for delivering us through that very uncertain time in our lives.

*Heavenly Father, Thank You for being our constant guide, for being with us each day, and for the comfort of knowing that we can overcome all that is set before us through our faith in You. Your Son, Jesus Christ, exemplifies Your love and power in such a beautiful way, Lord. Give us the desire to walk alongside Him and look to Him not only for friendship and guidance, but for motivation and inspiration in carrying out Your will. Amen.*

**Nick Crisafi**

(Submitted in 2009)

