

Sunday Sermon – Father’s Day

6/15/25

Series: Eyes on You

Passage: Isaiah 40 (vv. 27-31)

Title: The Power of Powerlessness: Finding Strength in the Everlasting Father

Good morning, Church! Happy Father’s Day. I want to begin this morning by giving praise to the Lord. Last week, we put out a request on behalf of Pastor Dave who was in need of some pretty costly medical equipment. Scripture tells us to carry one another’s burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.” And I want to thank you for your generosity. We were able to cut Dave a check this week for over \$8,400. He was very appreciative and humbled by the continuing love and support of this congregation. So thank you, and I praise the Lord for all of you who were involved in that effort.

One of the marks of real living faith is that we, as a people, would have a spirit of generosity. Not only in seeing and loving the people around us, but also in not holding too tightly the treasures of this world and offering them for the Lord’s use. Proverbs tells us that “the generous themselves will be blessed.” And we can have a spirit of generosity because we know that Jesus is our true treasure and our provider. And if you agree with that this morning, let’s give the Lord a clap offering.

This morning, we are continuing in our “Eyes on You.” As a way to honor the Word of God and honor Him who wrote it, please open your bibles with me to Isaiah 40. As we read last week, the series title comes from King Jehoshaphat’s prayer in the Old Testament – 2 Chronicles 20:12, “***We do not know what to do, but our eyes are on you.***” A fantastic prayer of faith. And last week we talked about the context of that prayer and about trusting God when the battle isn’t yours to fight. When we feel attacked, when we are in the midst of a battle or crisis and we don’t know what to do, often our reaction is like that of a cornered animal – we feel threatened, and we react accordingly instead of setting our eyes on the Lord and trusting him to fight the battle. God wants to be our fortress and our defender in the midst of our battles.

This week we focus our attention on another circumstance in which we often don’t know what to do - **when we feel weak and powerless**. The title of this message is: **The Power of Powerlessness: Finding Strength in the Everlasting Father**. So let’s ground ourselves this morning in the text of Isaiah 40. For the sake of time, we’ll be reading just the end of the chapter - v. 27-31. Let’s read it together [read and pray]

*“Father in Heaven, we confess that we are weak, but You are strong. Open our eyes to understand that truth and to behold Your greatness. Cause our hearts to rest in You. In Jesus’ name, Amen.”*

Isaiah chapter 40 is a passage that marks a decisive turning point in the Book of Isaiah. The prophet, who has spent a significant portion of the book uttering oracles of judgement, now shifts the message to proclamations of comfort. From condemnation to consolation. From

God's holy wrath to His sovereign tenderness. And what we find in this chapter is one of the most profound treatments of a theme desperately needed in our generation: **feeling weak and powerlessness**.

I read a story this week of a woman who went to Subway, ordered three sandwiches, and was charged over \$1000. She had to fight corporate. We've all known her plight. We've all been on the phone with "giant company," pleading our cause. My wife and I just had a go around with our insurance company about a lack of coverage for our kids. Beloved, how much power do we have? How much power do we have to change the heart of another person? A wayward child? A hardened spouse? Sure we can say things that can be helpful or hurtful in the situation, but the change, the getting through, is beyond us. Some of us have struggled finding jobs – 10, 50s, 100s of resumes into the great digital beyond, with not even a response, much less a job. Weakness. Powerlessness.

Today we will look at how God meets us **not in our strength**, but **in our need**—and how our **powerlessness** is the very **platform** for God to display **His majesty and mercy**.

Culture tells us to "**believe in yourself**," but scripture says, "**Lift your eyes up!**"

The world says, "**You are enough**." But Isaiah says, "**It is God who gives power to the faint**."

The world tells us, "**Don't show weakness**." But God's truth says, "**Everyone will grow faint and weary, but those who wait for the Lord will renew their strength**."

Beloved, that is the picture of a good Father. Whether we realize it or not, we long for a father. We long for **strength that does not waver**, for a **voice that says, "I see you,"** for **arms that don't collapse when you lean into them**. That ache exists because we were created by a **Father-God**, not a distant deity. And Isaiah 40 is a majestic portrait of that Father's **sovereignty, compassion, and strength**, especially to the **powerless**. And I know that some here this morning who have had wonderful earthly fathers. While others may carry deep wounds because of a father's **absence, anger, or abuse**. But *no matter your earthly experience*, hear me this morning, *Isaiah 40 is an exhortation to "lift your eyes to the Everlasting Father whose strength is unmatched, and whose heart is entirely for you*.

## **I. GOD IS A FATHER WHO COMFORTS HIS CHILDREN**

Look at verse 1 with me: "**Comfort, comfort my people, says your God**." (v. 1)

As I mentioned before, Isaiah 40 begins a new section in the book. Many scholars agree that these chapters in Isaiah (40-55), were written at the end of Israel's exile to Babylon. God's people had been defeated. They felt forsaken, abandoned, hopeless. And they were powerless to change their circumstance. This is the heart of the people when God speaks to them: **weary, disheartened, and displaced**.

But God wants them to know that that was not going to be the end of their story. This opening isn't cold theology—this is **fatherly speech**. God isn't shouting orders, but whispering comfort. "*Speak tenderly to Jerusalem...*" (v. 2)

In Hebrew, it literally says: "**Speak to the heart**." Listen: how a parent engages the heart of

a child, especially in the midst of failure, can be one of the most beautiful or devastating things.

***“Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and tell her that her warfare is ended, (then look at this) that her iniquity is pardoned...”***

The comfort God offers isn't a vague sentiment—it's an end to a battle. Israel was in Babylon because of their sin, because of their failure. But God is about to tell them, I'm not going to leave you there. Not only am I going to forgive you, but I'm going to redeem you. This is covenant love, God's *hesed*—his **faithful covenant love and mercy**.

Listen: God brings comfort not by removing difficulty, but by revealing His redemptive plan. **A father disciplines**, yes—but he also **restores**. Finding a grace greater than all our sin,

Often in Hebrew you might see a word repeated like it is in verse 1. Here it's "Comfort, comfort." When Hebrews greeted or departed from one another, they would often say, "Shalom, Shalom." Shalom means peace. But when you double it, it means the fullness of peace. "I don't just want you have peace. But peace peace. Full peace. Perfect peace. One of my favorite verses is: ***“You kept him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on you, because he trusts you.”*** That's it: Shalom, shalom. Perfect peace.

When God says "*naham, naham*" – comfort, comfort – let this fully comfort you – all the way to the depths of your soul. *“I have not forgotten you. I will come for you. I will forgive you.”*

**Here's the truth:**

Before we can ever understand how God relates to our *powerlessness*, we must know **where we stand before God our Father**. Our sin not only makes us helpless—it makes us enemies of God. But the Gospel, God's good news, doesn't begin with us. Does it? It begins with God, and his great love in action to **come get** and to **forgive** sinners.

***“God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”***

— *Romans 5:8*

Verse 11 drives the image home:

***“He will tend his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms...”***

This is a picture of the Father **carrying His children**, not demanding they carry themselves.

This leads us to our second point:

## **II. GOD IS A FATHER WHO NEVER FAILS**

We don't have to look far to see the effects of not having a father.

According to studies:

- 85% of youth in prison come from fatherless homes.
- Children from father-absent homes are four times more likely to experience poverty.
- Children without a father are far more likely to struggle with identity, addiction, and despair.

Why? Because God designed the father to be the **visible example or reflection** of the **invisible Father**.

And where that reflection is broken—confusion, weakness, and despair rush in.

Beloved, the same is true of the spirit. Christians or not, our identities are broken when we don't understand that, yes God is Holy, but he is also Abba. He personal, present, available

and faithful. Isaiah 40 calls the powerless—not to look for answers in culture or within themselves—but to **lift up their eyes to their Father in heaven**.

Israel had begun to **doubt who God was** – his presence, his power. In exile, their experience made it seem like **He was distant or disinterested**. **Israel had grown uncertain** in their suffering. They began to say, *“Where is God? Has He abandoned us? Does he care about me in my suffering? Does he see me? Will he help me?”*  
Answer: Yes.

Though a Father needs to sometimes make hard decisions that the child doesn’t understand, though he disciplines those he loves, though he allows hard things to happen for the good and growth of the child – it doesn’t mean he isn’t there or doesn’t care. And when it comes to the Heavenly Father - Isaiah wants to **deconstruct all the idols** squelch any question about his capability. Verses 12-26 show the utter **incomparability of Yahweh**.  
*“Who has measured the waters in the hollow of his hand...?”* (v. 12)

*“Whom did he consult...Who taught him?”* (v. 14)

*“To whom then will you liken God?”* (v. 18)

*“It is he who sits above the circle of the earth...”* (v. 22)

This is *theology proper*—the doctrine of God. It’s a reminder of God’s absolute supremacy. But then Isaiah adds something profound and beautiful – verse 26.

*“Lift up your eyes on high and see: who created these?”* (v. 26) He names the stars—**billions of them—and not one is missing**.

Why does Isaiah say this? Because the point he is making is that **if He sustains galaxies**, He can sustain **you**. And if he knows each star by name. He knows you.

So when you are weak, beloved of the King, do not look inward—**look upward**. The key to understanding powerlessness is **not self-esteem**, but **God-esteem**. Don’t ask, “How strong am I?” Ask, “Who is my God?”

He is the **Father who rules galaxies** and yet holds **you**.

He doesn't faint (v. 28). He doesn’t need rest. He is not like an earthly dad.

He is the **Everlasting Father** (cf. Isaiah 9:6) *“To whom then will you compare me?”* (v. 25)  
There is no other father like Him.

And because of that:

### **III. GOD IS THE FATHER WHO STRENGTHENS THE WEAK**

Now we come to the crescendo of the chapter. You can almost imagine a glint in the eye of the prophet: So...if all this is true, then *“Why do you say, child of God... ‘My way is hidden from the Lord?’ ‘God doesn’t care about justice over my life.’*

This is the cry of the **weak and powerless**. Do you not know? Have you not heard about Yahweh? Yahweh was the name God revealed himself as to Moses. Not Elohim – the transcendent God – But Yahweh – personal, covenant keeping, Father. Do you not yet know about him?

*“Yahweh is the everlasting God... He does not faint or grow weary...”* (v. 28)

And then this promise:

*“He gives power to the faint, and to him who has no might He increases strength.”* (v. 29)

Hear this: **God does not despise your weakness. He meets you in it.** But the picture of giving here is not him transferring ownership of his power to you, but rather you finding power in him. As an outlet gives power to a vacuum cleaner. We find the power and strength of the Everlasting Father as we connect ourselves to him. It’s not about “manning up.” It about having a relationship with the Father.

Why is this necessary for us? Because even the strongest of us collapse.

*“Even youths shall faint and be weary...”*

J.C. Ryle – **“The best of men are still men at best.”** You’re not meant to carry your life on your shoulders. You’re meant to **wait on the Lord**, like a child trusting his father’s hands.

And then the glorious promise:

*“Those who do that shall renew their strength; they shall mount up on wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint.”* (v. 31)

That’s not a motivational quote. It’s a **gospel truth**.

If you’re here today and you feel **powerless**—listen carefully: You were never meant to live by your own strength. Your design cries out for **fatherly dependence**.

On the cross, Christ became **powerless** so that the **power of God** could be given to those who believe. Jesus weeps with the weak. He touches lepers. He feeds the hungry. He welcomes children, and He carries His people like a shepherd.

Through Christ, the Father invites you:

*“Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.”* — Matthew 11:28

You don’t need to clean yourself up. You need to **lay yourself down** at the foot of the cross.

Repent. Believe. Wait upon the Lord. Galatians 4:4–6 says: *“God sent forth His Son... so that we might receive adoption as sons.”*

Do you not know? Have you not heard? You are no longer fatherless. You are sons and daughters of the King.

I close with this image:

Imagine a young child walking across a busy street, frightened, trembling. But then his father scoops him up into his arms.

What changed?

Not the traffic. Not the danger. But now... **he’s being carried**.

That’s Isaiah 40.

*“He will carry them in His bosom...”* (v. 11)

*“They shall mount up with wings like eagles...”* (v. 31)

Let your weakness become your worship. Let your powerlessness become the platform for **divine strength**.

And may you say with confidence:

*“When I am weak, then I am strong.”* — 2 Corinthians 12:10

Because **your Father** is strong enough to carry you all the way Home.

# EYES ON YOU

2 CHRONICLES 20:12

***“We do not know what to do, but our eyes are on you.”***

**- 2 Chron. 20:12**

God is a Father who comforts His children

***“Comfort, comfort my people, says your God.”***

- Is. 40:1

God is a Father who comforts His children

***“Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that her warfare is ended, that her iniquity is pardoned...”***

- Is. 40:2

God is a Father who comforts His children

***“You kept him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on you, because he trusts you.”***

- Is. 26:3

God is a Father who comforts His children

***“He will tend his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms...”***

- Is. 40:11

God is a Father who never fails

God designed the father to be the **visible example  
or reflection** of the **invisible Father**.

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***“Whom did he consult...Who taught him?” (v.14)***

***“To whom then will you liken God?” (v. 18)***

***“It is he who sits above the circle of the earth...” (v. 22)***

God is a Father who never fails

***“Lift up your eyes on high and see: who created these? He who brings out their host by number, calling them all by name...not one of them is missing.”***

- Is. 40:26

God is a Father who never fails

***“To whom then will you compare me, that I should be like him?’ says the Holy One.”***

- Is. 40:25

God is the Father who strengthens the weak

***“Why do you say, O Jacob, and speak, O Israel,  
‘My way is hidden from the Lord and my right is  
disregarded by my God?’”***

- Is. 40:27

God is the Father who strengthens the weak

***“Have you not known? Have you not heard?  
The LORD is the everlasting God...he does not  
faint or grow weary.”***

- Is. 40:28

God is the Father who strengthens the weak

***“He give power to the weak, and to him who has no might he increases strength.”***

- Is. 40:29

God is the Father who strengthens the weak

**“The best of men are still men at best.”**

- J.C. Ryle

God is the Father who strengthens the weak

***“Those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up on wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint.”***

- Is. 40:31

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***“Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden,  
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