

With Wings as
EAGLES

With Wings as
EAGLES

Andrew MURRAY



WHITAKER
HOUSE

All Scripture quotations are taken from the King James Version
(KJV) of the Holy Bible.

With Wings as Eagles

ISBN: 978-0-88368-851-9
Printed in the United States of America
© 1993 by Whitaker House

Whitaker House
1030 Hunt Valley Circle
New Kensington, PA 15068
www.whitakerhouse.com

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Murray, Andrew, 1828–1917.

With wings as eagles / Andrew Murray.

p. cm.

ISBN 0-88368-851-4 (pbk.)

1. Christian life—Reformed authors. 2. Sermons, English—
19th century. 3. Reformed Church—Sermons. I. Title.

BV4501.3 .M895 2002

252'.042—dc21

2002012143

No part of this book may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical—including photocopying, recording, or by any information storage and retrieval system—without permission in writing from the publisher. Please direct your inquiries to permissionseditor@whitakerhouse.com.

This book has been printed digitally and produced in a standard specification in order to ensure its continuing availability.

Contents

| | |
|----------------------|---|
| <i>Preface</i> | 7 |
|----------------------|---|

Sermon One:

| | |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| <i>That They All May Be One</i> | 9 |
|---------------------------------------|---|

Sermon Two:

| | |
|---|----|
| <i>The Secret of Effectual Prayer</i> | 31 |
|---|----|

Sermon Three:

| | |
|---------------------------------|----|
| <i>With Eagles' Wings</i> | 51 |
|---------------------------------|----|

| | |
|-------------------------------|----|
| <i>About the Author</i> | 81 |
|-------------------------------|----|

Preface

This little volume passes on to its readers the words spoken by Andrew Murray at the meetings for United Prayer held in Exeter Hall on Thursday, December 5, 1895. It was a memorable day and brought to a close the labors of Mr. Murray's memorable visit to this country. On Saturday, December 7, Mr. and Mrs. Murray started on their return voyage to the Cape.

Mr. Murray went in and out among us for four months. One month he was in America and one month in Holland, and in both countries he labored unceasingly. For his ministry of the Word of Christ in the United Kingdom, thousands give thanks to God. By his established position as a writer, by his years, by his special gift from God, and by the power of the Holy Spirit, he was enabled to accomplish a service whose influence and result will long remain among us.



With Wings as Eagles

In a letter of farewell written on board his ship, Mr. Murray thus took leave of the many friends he left behind:

LOVE—PRAYER—GOD

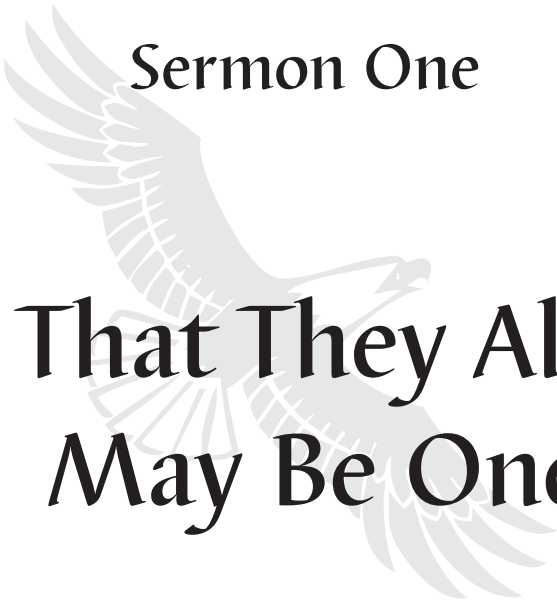
My beloved brothers and sisters,

May I in parting pass on these three words from our last day's meetings to you all? *Love* in the Spirit to each other, and to all saints; *prayer* in the name of Jesus; *God*, our Almighty God, to be waited on and trusted—this is a threefold cord that cannot be broken. In the faith that our God is visiting His people and is very near to bless them with large increase of the spirit of love, prayer, and faith in their God, I commend you to Him.

I remain,
Andrew Murray

Sermon One

That They All
May Be One



Sermon One

That They All May Be One

*[I pray]...that they all may be one;
as thou, Father, art in me, and I in
thee, that they also may be one in us:
that the world may believe that thou
hast sent me. And the glory which
thou gavest me I have given them;
that they may be one, even as we are
one: I in them, and thou in me, that
they may be made perfect in one;
and that the world may know that
thou hast sent me, and hast loved
them, as thou hast loved me.*

—John 17:15, 21–23

That They All May Be One



The words from which I wish to speak to you are found in John 17. We will take out of verse 15 the words, *"I pray."* Then in verse 21: *"That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me."* Verse 22: *"And the glory which thou gavest me I have given them."* Note that the twentieth verse says, *"I pray [or, I ask You]."* The twenty-second verse says, *"The glory which thou gavest me I have given them [with the same object]; that they may be one, even as we are one."* The twenty-third: *"I in them, and thou in me, that they may be made perfect in one; and that the world may know that thou hast sent me, and hast loved them, as thou hast loved me."*

If I judge correctly what fills your hearts this morning, then I think I would express it this way: there is a deep consciousness that there is not among the people of God that overflowing love that there should be. There is the desire to see this changed, and there is the secret faith: if God chooses, He



With Wings as Eagles

is able to change us. But there is more. Your coming here is, I trust, a testimony to the positive expectation: if we ask Him, He will pour out more love among His people. This morning we want to make confession of this lack of love; we want to cry to God for an increase of love.

I need not remind you of what the proofs are that love is so often lacking. I will not speak of the divisions among the churches; I will not speak of the way in which Christians can speak of each other; I will not speak of the coldness often existing between Christians who spend years together in the same church and eat the same bread at the Lord's Supper; I will not speak of how the most precious truths and promises of God unconsciously become walls of separation. You all know, you all deplore, that there is not that love that compels the world to say, "God has loved them, and has poured His love into their hearts."

And now, if we are to make confession and if we are to be encouraged to pray and

That They All May Be One



to hope and to expect deliverance, nothing is better than that we should turn for a few minutes to God's blessed Word—the words of our great High Priest in His last prayer. You know them well. He prayed, "Father, I pray that they all may be one." It was God who was to do it. And then He added wonderful words to the effect, "Father, between You and Me there never has been anything but love, and I want that to be among My people, that they may be one, even as we are one."

And then He said, in other words, "Father, it will be such a wonderful thing!" When selfish, proud men learn to love as the Father and the Son of God love, the world will be compelled to say, "That is more than human love; that is a love that comes from heaven."

And then Christ said, in effect, "Father, it is for this that I have given them the glory that You gave Me, and have made them partakers of the divine nature and of all that You have. And, Father, on that account I pray for them. I have given them the glory



With Wings as Eagles

You gave Me. And now, Father, watch over that glory, that they may be one as we are and that they may be made perfect in one, that the world may believe that You have sent Me and have loved them as You have loved Me." What a prayer!

Now, what are the thoughts that that prayer suggests to us about the oneness of God's people?

First, *the oneness among God's people is to be the reflection of the life of God in heaven*. Just think of that! Heaven is the place where the glory of God is perfectly manifested; earth is the place where the reflection of that glory is to be seen. Yonder in the heavens the sun burns in all its brightness and heat and glory; here on earth, miles and miles away, is the place where its light is shining. And yonder in heaven is the glory of God's love; but here on earth it is a beautiful, reflected light. And what is that light to be? We are to love one another and be one, just as the Father and the Son are One.

That They All May Be One



Oh, beloved, have we really taken it in? Think of the love of the Father for the Son. What is it? The Father gave all that He had to the Son. That is His love, and that is to be my love to you and your love to me. It is to be nothing less, for that is holiness, that is perfection, that is happiness. And God wants you to be holy and perfect and happy and like Himself. That is love. God gave all He had to His beloved Son.

And what was the love of the Son for the Father? He gave all back. When He had taken a human body, when He had come here in the flesh, He gave all. He gave His obedience; He gave His life; He gave all to the Father. That was love. He loved the Father in eternity and sought nothing for Himself. And He loved the Father amid temptation and amid His sufferings on the earth.

And now that love of the Father for the Son, and that love of the Son for the Father, is to be the measure of your love for each other, children of God. I do not ask, "Have you attained that?" But I may ask, "Have



With Wings as Eagles

you aimed at that? And has it been your study and heart's cry: 'Oh, God, help me to love as You love and as Jesus loves'?"

Yes, the Lord Jesus said so in effect, distinctly, and more than once: "*A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you*" (John 13:34). He came with that love, and He was prepared by the Holy Spirit to implant it in the hearts of the disciples, who had been unloving. "*Love one another; as I have loved you.*" Christ gave us that command. Have we understood it? It is sometimes necessary to talk about the lack of love in the church of Christ, and it is sometimes necessary to forget it and to come to my own heart and to ask, "How is it with my love to the brethren?"

That is our first thought: the oneness of God's people is to be the reflection of the very life of God in heaven.

Then next is that *oneness is to be the manifestation of the mighty power of God*. It is a thing God has to do. The Lord Jesus

That They All May Be One



Christ did not say, “Father, they are one.” He said, “*I pray...that they all may be one.*” God was to do it. Just as Christ asked God to glorify Him in heaven in the beginning of the prayer, so here at the end He asked the Father in effect: “Do this, too, and grant that they may be one, even as we are.” Beloved, God has to do it.

And there comes the great fault, there comes the great reason why there is so little love. We do not count upon God to do it. God puts into the heart of every child of His who is born of the Holy Spirit a seed, a principle, a power of divine love, a new will, a new heart; and every child of God is by his very nature inclined to love God’s children. But after a time there comes trial, and it becomes difficult to love. And the Christian often begins to try in the power that is in him to love as he should, but he fails. Afterward he gives way to despair, and he begins with his little love to do his very best, but he never can love as the Bible wants him to love. Ah! He misunderstood God’s plan. God’s



With Wings as Eagles

plan is: *"It is God which worketh in you both to will and to do"* (Philippians 2:13). When He has first worked to will, you are still helpless, but He wants you to come and claim the power of the Holy Spirit to enable you to do it.

I have spoken much and long about the Holy Spirit, but I am coming to the conviction, which I may say every day grows deeper, that we know very little of what the Holy Spirit can do. I believe that the word of the apostle Paul, *"The love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost"* (Romans 5:5), means that just as Paul was filled with the love of God, and as Paul could say, "The love of Christ constraineth me" (2 Corinthians 5:14), and as Paul lived incessantly, day and night, praying for His people, and as Paul poured out his love with all the tenderness of a mother or a nurse, as he told us himself, so God's Holy Spirit can so fill the heart and life that love will be to us as natural as the love of a mother toward her child. The Lord Jesus Christ, our High Priest, cried to His Father

That They All May Be One



to do the work, to make us one. And we try in our own strength to love and fail, instead of coming, utterly impotent and helpless, to claim a new blessing, to claim that the Holy Spirit will fill us and shed abroad through our whole being the almighty love of God.

It is well we have come together today. My heart is glad to see God's children longing to hear about love. But everything will be like "the morning cloud and the early dew" (Hosea 6:4; 13:3). Our aim and purpose to love will vanish unless God gives His Holy Spirit in power into our hearts. Do let every heart bow before God this morning. We are going to undertake the work of love, give up ourselves to intercession, and think of what God wants us to do in intercession. But if we are really to have the spirit of intercession we must have the love of our Emmanuel, the Lamb of God. Come this morning and ask God to give you, in a measure and in a way and in a power you have never understood—and even now He can set your heart upon it—His almighty



With Wings as Eagles

love. God can make your heart a vessel for that love, and He will delight to do it.

Then comes my next thought, and that is: *love comes in answer to prayer*. I have spoken about the great power of God doing it, but I now want to point out that Christ prayed for it. He prayed, “*That they all may be one.*” Oh, that our hearts might just for a moment look up to see our Lord Jesus and hear by the Holy Spirit the prayer that goes up, not in words, but in His holy presence and power: “*Father,...that they all may be one.*” He prays for them without ceasing, He lives to pray for them.

And what does that call us to? To praying with Him in His name, in His spirit, and with great faith in the fellowship of His intercession. When we pray far more for an outpouring of love in our hearts and the hearts of God’s children around us, a change in the church will come.

Allow me here, my beloved friends, to come at once to what has been on my heart, and is on my heart—that God’s children

That They All May Be One



ought every day of their lives to pray for all believers. Paul did not tell Christians in his epistles to pray for the heathen, or for the Jews, or for the unconverted, but he always told them to pray for "*all saints*" (Ephesians 6:18). They are the members of your body; they are your brothers and sisters. And until in our daily devotions we every day cry to God for His body the church, just as much as we cry to Him for our own souls, I do not believe that a great revival of love will come. But I think God will pour it into the hearts of His children as the beginning, as the assurance of what He is going to do. Do pray for Christians every day of your lives. I do not want you to give up any union that you may have joined, to pray at certain times for certain circles or for all believers, but I want you to feel that it ought to be a continuous part of the spiritual life.

Just as close as is my relation to Christ is my relation to my fellow Christians; just as dependent as I am upon Christ in some things, I am dependent for others on the fellowship of the saints. Every thought of



With Wings as Eagles

Christ ought to be linked with the thought of His people, His body the church. By prayer it will come. May God, before we part this morning, give us the very spirit of prayer to call upon Him. But may God give the spirit of prayer in our hearts in such a way that the cry will go up from us continually: "Oh, God, make us one, as You and Your Son are One." The cry will lead us to feel our own impotence, and the loneliness and feebleness of our lives.

Remember that Paul said in 1 Thessalonians 4:9–10, "*Ye yourselves are taught of God to love one another. And indeed ye do it.*" And yet he wrote beseeching them, "*That ye increase more and more*" (v. 10). There is increase of love when the Holy Spirit touches the heart. Then the love will flow in a stream, and it will be one of those streams of which Jesus spoke when He said, "*He that believeth on me,...out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water*" (John 7:38). Those living waters are to impart what the fountain has got, and thereby make all around green and fresh: the stream of

That They All May Be One



love will impart of itself to bless others. We must pray that this oneness may be made manifest.

But another thought is this: *the manifestation of this oneness upon earth is to be a proof to the world that God sent Christ and that God has loved us.* Just think of that. How important it is! You know Christ Jesus Himself said, “*By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples [a heavenly people], if ye have love one to another*” (John 13:35). That is to be the heavenly hallmark, and He said it twice in our text.

First of all, He said, “*I pray...that they all may be one;...that the world may believe that thou hast sent me.*” You know that Christ was among them in the world, and they would not believe it. And what was to bring conviction? Love. That is what Christ said. Not preaching, but love. Preaching is needed—praise God for what it does!—but love will do more.

In the next place He said, “*And the glory which thou gavest me I have given them;*



With Wings as Eagles

that they may be one, even as we are one: I in them, and thou in me, that they may be made perfect in one; and that the world may know that thou hast sent me, and hast loved me” (John 17:21–23). God loved Christ with a wonderful love, and God loves His people with the same love; and the love with which God loves Christ became a love that He poured out upon us even unto the blood of Calvary. And the love with which God and Christ love us will be within us a power that will pour itself out, in the first place, for the brethren; and thereby the world will be convinced.

People speak of the evidences of Christianity, and books have been written on the evidences of Christianity, and they are not without their value, though I do not know that they have turned many from darkness to light. But Christ says it is love that will compel the world to say, “These men have got something from heaven. These men are living a superhuman life. Look at the way in which they love each other!” Dear friends, has the world around you, or any part of it,

That They All May Be One



been convinced, been convicted, and been brought to acknowledge: “God sent Christ, and God loved you just as He loved Christ; I can see it, for there is something in you that I do not find upon earth”? Praise God!

There have been such cases. There are believers of whom others have felt that they have something that is not of the earth. But how little it is the case! And why should it not be the case with each one of us? It is just this: one thing is needed. We must wait upon God in prayer. Let me point out to you one text to impress that thought upon you. In 1 Thessalonians 3:12, what do we read? *“And the Lord make you to increase and abound in love one toward another.”* Now note that just as Christ prayed to the Father, so Paul prayed, *“The Lord make you to increase and abound in love.”* And he used the same expression in the ninth and tenth verses of the fourth chapter, *“As touching brotherly love ye need not that I write unto you: for ye yourselves are taught of God to love one another. And indeed ye do it toward all the brethren which are in all*



With Wings as Eagles

Macedonia: but we beseech you, brethren, that ye increase more and more.” Christ said, in effect, *“Love one another, as I have loved you”* (John 15:12). And Paul said the same, *“The Lord make you to...abound in love...even as we do toward you”* (1 Thessalonians 3:12).

And now I press upon you to notice those words which follow in 1 Thessalonians 3:13, *“To the end he may stablish your hearts unblameable in holiness before God.”* Did ever you notice that *“to the end”*? How is God going to make me a holy man, and to establish my heart unblamable in holiness? By filling me with love. Love is the fulfilling of the whole law and the perfection of the life of God and of Christ. And when God makes us to increase in love and abound in love toward one another, then self sinks away, and the love of God takes possession, and the love and the holiness of God can grow and prosper and rule within us. Let us take that prayer today: *“The Lord make us to increase and abound in love one toward another, to the end He*

That They All May Be One



may establish our hearts unblamable in holiness before Him.”

In conclusion, what is needed if, in answer to prayer, this love of God is to come and take possession of our souls? *The heart must be utterly and absolutely given up to God to love.* May God this day enable us to see how little there has been of the real heavenly love within us! May God enable us to make confession of it! How much self has limited our love to people that we agree with, to people that we like, and to people who think just as we do! How much our love has been limited within our own circle, and how little it has gone out, like the love of Christ, as love for the unworthy, for those who differ from us, for those who do not love us!

Ah, brethren, have you made a study of it, to love every man whom you feel you would rather be separate from? Have you made it a study to pray, “Lord, here is one in whom my love can triumph, in whom Your love can triumph; I want to love him as a brother?” May God give us the spirit of



With Wings as Eagles

humiliation, to confess how little we have of the divine love.

Just when we try, at times, we have the proof of how the spirit of love has not yet triumphed within us. But praise God the Father on whom Christ called, to whom Paul prayed, to whom we come to pray today—the Father in heaven—wants to give His Holy Spirit of love to us. We want, even before we make intercession for an outpouring of the Spirit of love upon the church, to begin by asking for an outpouring of the Spirit into our own hearts. We want to say, “Lord God, empty our hearts of self; we desire to confess and give up everything that is selfish; we desire to study and aim at this one thing—to live on earth toward every brother as God and Christ live together in heaven.”

But you might say, “But God and Christ see in each other nothing but what is lovely. How can they do otherwise than love each other? But my brother tempts me so! There is so much in him that is hard and unlovable!” Ah, yes, it was for that the Son of

That They All May Be One



God came to earth, to prove that the love of God in heaven could stand the trials of life—every enmity, every shame, every suffering—and live through it all. And it is your high privilege to have your heart filled with the heavenly love of Christ Jesus and to carry it through life; and it is your high privilege to begin and prove that you love your brother. You might find it difficult to love the ungodly, and yet you sometimes tell me, “I find it easier to love the ungodly than to love my very brother.” Oh, what a proof of your blindness! Praise God for love for the ungodly. But that brother of yours, redeemed with the blood of Christ, made a member of one body in one Spirit with you through Christ Jesus—what a thought that you cannot love that brother!

Oh, come today and let us confess our sin, our utter impotence, and then let us look up in faith and claim the mighty power of God’s Spirit. Let us claim in faith the promise in Romans 5:5: *“The love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us.”*



With Wings as Eagles

Then, when we have truly yielded ourselves up to God, let us begin to plead and pray for God's church around us, for every professing child of God in London and in England. But let us begin to pray a prayer that will never any day of our lives cease: "Lord, visit Your saints." Oh, that God may write this upon our hearts! Who are willing to give themselves up to this glorious work of praying for the saints of God and for a revelation of God's love in Christ's body? Let your hearts say to God: "Lord, here I am." That will help you to get a blessing of love for yourselves.

If you want love for yourselves, or love which is going to plead for the body of Christ, then you must do two things. Go and confess to God your lack of love, and then say, "Lord God, I want to have that love, that from this day I may daily pray for Your body, for all believers." God will give it; the great intercession of Christ secures it.