

Edgar and Albert

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High on the side of a craggily old mountain clung a scraggily old tree. At the very top sat a large bundle of twigs and straw. In the middle lay a large comfy nest, and nestled in the soft white fluff were two golden eggs. The eggs were very, very plump; they looked ready to burst. What was going to happen?

First the eggs jiggled. Then they bumped and wiggled. Next they tipped back. And finally they went CA . . .RACK! And out popped Edgar and Albert.

Edgar and Albert were big eyed, big headed, little tiny eaglets. They were Bald Eagles, and bald they were. Why there wasn't a feather between them.

Edgar and Albert were eager eaters, and they grew very fast. Soon they were like bright bouncy balls with lots of fuzzy brown feathers. And before long they were handsome young eaglets ready to leave the nest and explore the world beyond. But there was a problem. How were Edgar and Albert going to get to the world beyond?

Could they take a train or travel in a plane?
How about a bike or maybe a long hike?
What about a board or possibly a Ford?

No, there was only one way. They would have to fly to the world beyond. But that posed another problem. Edgar and Albert had never flown.

Oh yes, they'd seen their parents leave the nest and fly,
And yes they'd watched wild snow geese flap cross the sky.
One day they watched a jet plane make a trail up high,
And then they saw a big balloon slowly drifting by.

But Edgar and Albert had never left the safety of their nest. How did they know they could fly? What if they jumped from the nest and discovered they couldn't fly? For Edgar and Albert the thought was a puzzlement. What were they to do?

Father Eagle knew what to do. Do you?

"Boys," he slowly stated, a glimmer in his eye, "God created eagles to fly up in the sky. You have a slender body to slice right through the air, and special wings of brown and gray to keep you way up there. And that's not all you need to know, there's two more things to tell, you both have lots of energy and muscle power as well."

"You have everything you need," Father said. "If you believe you can fly, then you will fly."

Edgar and Albert listened closely, then each gave a big long sigh. "It all makes sense," said Albert. "We have nothing to worry about."

"You're right," added Edgar. "It's up to us. If we believe we can, then we can. Tomorrow we're going to fly!" And with that the boys hurried to bed.

In the morning Edgar and Albert woke early and ate a hearty breakfast. Then they prepared to fly. Albert was first.

Albert stretched his wings, checked his muscles, and tightened his helmet. Then he stepped to the edge of the nest. He took a deep breath..... and waited,and waited. All you could hear was the thumpity-thump-thump of Albert's little heart. Slowly and softly Albert began to count. "One , get ready Two , get set , Three ," And with a gigantic shout, "Goooooooooooo," Albert dropped toward the ground like a rock. "I believe. I believe," he whispered as the air rushed past his face. But nothing happened.

Albert fell faster and faster and his eyes grew bigger and bigger as the ground drew closer and closer. "I believe! I believe!" he announced in a young manly voice. Still nothing happened.

Albert was now speeding toward the ground. Time was running out! It was now or never! "I believe!!! I believe!!!" he shouted as he strained with all of his might. And then it happened.

Albert arched his back, spread his wings, and rose into the sky. It wasn't even work. The currents of air carried him higher and higher in bigger and bigger circles. Soon Albert was soaring far above the craggily old mountain and the scraggly old tree. Albert was flying!

Now came Edgar.

"I believe. I believe," he pronounced as he stretched and checked his wings. "I believe. I believe," he repeated as he tightened his scarf and goggles. "I believe. I believe," he gulped as he stepped to the edge of the nest. "I believe I believe I believe . . . tomorrow will be a better day to fly. It won't be so hot, and everyone knows that cool weather is better for flying." So Edgar stepped back and returned to the safety of the nest.

The next day the weather was perfect, and Edgar again prepared to fly. He stretched, he flapped, and he checked his muscles. And each time he quietly whispered, "I believe. I believe."

With great confidence Edgar strode to the edge of the nest, took a deep breath, and announced, "I believe tomorrow will be an even better day to fly. My friends aren't here and I want them to see me fly. So Edgar returned to the safety of the nest and began calling his friends.

The third day the weather was again perfect, and Edgar's friends were there too. They were cheering, and clapping, and waving. Edgar waved, stepped to the edge of the nest, and smartly began to count. "One! . . Two! . . Three! . . Goooooooooooo"! This time he did it!

Edgar leaped into the air, let out a squeal, and plunged head over heels into the fluff of the nest. "I believe tomorrow will be the best day ever to fly. It will be the first day of summer, a perfect day for a celebration."

Edgar removed his goggles and scarf and blew off the fluff as his friends slowly flew away.

And that's how it goes day, after day, after day. Each time Edgar is about to fly he finds another excuse to not take the step that would allow him to fly.

Today Edgar still hasn't flown. He's full grown now, and he sits alone in the fluff of the nest. If you listen carefully, you can hear him say, "I believe, I believe," while Albert and the others soar `bout the sky.

I wonder what it will take to get Edgar to fly. What do you think?

Passing the Word Along

Both Edgar and Albert believed they could fly, but only Albert had faith. Faith is believing without a doubt that something will happen or something can be done. Albert believed what his father told him, then he acted in faith. He stepped from the nest and flew. Edgar, on the other hand, says he believes his father, but he doesn't have faith to go with it. Therefore, he won't step from the nest, and he still hasn't flown.

Just as Albert trusted his father, you can trust God, your heavenly father. Why? Because God wants the best for you. God will never lie to you and he will never let you down. When God asks you to do something, do it by faith. That's what Abram did.

Abram's Faith

Two hundred and ninety-two years after the Great Flood a boy named Abram was born (later God changed his name to Abraham). Abram grew up in Ur of the Chaldeans, a place located along the Euphrates River about 150 miles northwest of the Persian Gulf. Can you find it on a map?

One day Abram's father decided to move. The family left Ur and headed for Canaan. But they never got there. For an unknown reason they stopped in Haran. There Abram grew up and eventually married. He might have lived there for the rest of his life, but at age 75 God spoke to Abram.

The Lord said to Abram, "Leave your country, your people, and your father's household and go to the land I will show you. "I will make you into a great nation and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse: and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you" (Genesis 12:1-3).

It sounds really good, doesn't it? God will give Abram a special blessing if he moves to an unknown land. At least that is what God says. Do you think it is true? Why?

Abram has to make a decision. Should he take his wife and belongings to an unknown land and live under the uncertainty of God's direction or should he stay where he is and live in the security and wealth that he already has? All he has to go on is a promise from God. What would you have done? Why? This is what Abram did. He put his faith and trust in God and he went to the unknown land. Because he did, Abram's faith pleased God, and Abram was blessed. Also, because Abram put his faith and trust in God Abram became the founder of the Jewish nation. Then later God used the Jewish nation to bring Jesus to earth. If Abram had not put his faith and trust in God, we might not have Jesus today.

SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT:

Where does faith come from? If you are not sure, then look for an answer in Romans 10:17. One more thing. "Without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him" (Hebrews 11:6). Therefore, it is important to believe in God even though you can't see him. He still is there, and God blesses all who believe in him, seek him, and obey him.

REMEMBER THIS:

Faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see (Hebrews 11:1).