



## ***AHS "A" Association Gathering, 2012***

**Devotion: by Gerald Cumby**

**Opportunity that not only could I not pass up, but feel so privileged as to being with such an elite group of "advanced in years" people. That is what the Lord told Joshua... "You are now old, advanced in years"...**

**When someone tells you that you are old, it is like telling someone that you are ugly. The truth always hurts so bad!**

**You are a blessed people....to have had the privilege of being a part of Abilene, Texas...and good old Abilene High.**

**But we are just maturing, just getting better...not just getting old.**

**Older people are so funny:**

**You hear what you want to hear...**

- **Three old men...hard hearing, walking one windy day; first one said, "Windy, ain't it? The 2<sup>nd</sup> one said, "No, it is Thursday." The 3<sup>rd</sup> one said, "I am, too; let's have a coke."**
  - **We hear what we want to.**
- **An old man going into the doctor's office...feeling bad.**

**The doctor checked him out and told him he was in real bad shape and was going to die. The old man said, "My gosh, Doc, how long do I have to live? Doc says, "About 10... The old man startled says, "Do you mean years, months, weeks, what...."**

**The doctor slowly says, "9, 8, 7, 6....."**

**Something to leave you today that you can take home and remember:**

**The Eagle....**

Man for many years have taken Eagles are a symbol of beauty, bravery, courage, honor, pride, determination and grace. What makes this bird so important and symbolic to humanity is its characteristics. Seven important characteristics of the eagle have been closely associated to leadership and are widely researched and the facts accepted globally.

**Eagles Flock Together**

As the old saying goes, "Birds of like feathers flock together". Eagles do not mix with other birds but always enjoys flying the high altitudes with other Eagles and the wind blowing strong.

We as the children God are told not to forsake the assembling of saints but come together and encourage each other to live a royal lifestyle of God with other believers.

#### The 7 Characteristics of an Eagle:

1. Eagles Have Vision
2. Eagles are fearless
3. Eagles are Tenacious - Watch an eagle when a storm comes. When other birds fly away from the storm with fear, an eagle spreads its mighty wings and uses the current to soar to greater heights.
4. Eagles are High Flyers...10,000 feet
5. Eagles Never Eat Dead Meat - "People you hang around with and the books you read eventually determine the person you become"
6. Eagles Possess Vitality (30 years old)...pick their feathers, pull out their own talons....to start new growth. Eagles retire until new feathers and talons grow.
7. Eagles Nurture their younger ones...they know how to feed, lead, weed, and lead. They get that over time.

With that, I want you to know that I felt that way as an AHS Eagle. I saw the Eagles of yesteryear with great character traits:

**E = Excellence....They had a "Spirit of excellence."**

**A = Accountability (accountable)...to yourself, to others, to God.**

**G = Gracious/Grateful...thankful...parents, teachers, coaches, American**

**L = Loyal...Learn by listening. Loyal to teammates...**

**E = Earnest....Determined...sincere**

**S = Sacrificial...sacrificing...body to make sure the team wins...  
Not necessarily skilled (Max Williams)...Not selfish...serving others**

**Our Savior did the same. Jesus sacrificed his life for others...that we might enter in the place He now resides. He was accountable to His Father, performed graciously and did his acts with grace and mercy, and he was loyal to the plan of God...giving His life that others might live eternally. He did his work with a "Spirit of Excellence."**

Jesus told his disciples, John 14:1-6... *"Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also. And whither I go ye know, and the way ye know. Thomas saith unto him, Lord, we know not whither thou goest; and how can we know the way? Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me."*

**Isaiah 40:31, "*But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint.*"**

*Wait...renew, mount up with wings as eagles...run and not be exhausted...walk and not give out. We are Eagles to the very end!*

**May God give all of you joy as you enter into the winter years of life. Put Him first. He loves us with a love that cannot be measured.**