

# THE EXTRA POINT

BY JERRY ROBERTS



## # 1570 Eagles Know Change...So Should We

The pain of change is one that we all face in our lives and careers. Change pushes us out of our comfort zone. Some of us resist the thought and even push back against it, but change doesn't back off. We either give in to it, or we know that it will leave us behind. I've often wondered if animals and even insects are more advanced than humans when it comes to accepting what must be done to move forward. I'm Jerry Roberts, and today we'll take a different look at change. That's next, on The Extra Point.

The eagle, majestic and powerful, soars high above the earth, reveling in the freedom of its expansive and powerful wings.

Adult eagles are generally at the top of the food chain, and have few natural predators that can reliably overpower them. Their impressive size, strength, and hunting abilities make them formidable adversaries for many other animals.

Eagles have been known to swoop down, attack and carry off foxes, rabbits, lambs, piglets, and even pet cats and dogs.

Yet, even this iconic creature is subject to undergoing a long and painful process of change and renewal.

As the eagle reaches the age of about 40, the once-sharp tools that enabled its mastery of the skies have become liabilities, hindering its ability to hunt, and to protect its young.

The eagle's talons are dulled, and now it can no longer grasp its prey as it once did.

The beak has become too long and curved, preventing it from eating. If the bird could finally secure its target and whisk it away, devouring it would be a challenge.

Another problem the eagle faces is that its feathers on its wings and chest are now too thick and heavy, and staying airborne is hard. The eagle's instincts take over. It flies to its

nest on the top of the mountain and beats its beak against a rock, over and over again, until the beak breaks and comes off.

Then this majestic creature waits for a new beak to grow. When it does, the bird proceeds to tear its claws out.

When new claws grow, the eagle then uses them to pull out its over-heavy plumage on its chest and wings.

After 5 months of pain and torment, with a new beak, claws and plumage, the eagle is reborn and can live normally for another 30 years.

This cycle of change is the eagle's burden to bear, yet also its salvation. For without the willingness to shed the old, to embrace the pain of transformation, the eagle would become weak, unable to fulfill its purpose, doomed to a slow and inevitable decline.

The pain of change is the price we pay for growth, for survival, for the opportunity to soar to greater heights.

You might say, "But Jerry, this survival instinct is written into the eagle's DNA; and the eagle has no choice in the matter." I won't argue if you say that. I just wish it was also in our DNA.

What if we saw change as our ticket to growth, not as something to be fearful of and to run from?

Do you see change from the perspective of the eagle? Does it make you want to soar?

That's the Extra Point. Be responsible and make something good happen today. For 93.3FM, the Ray Gibson Show, and First Hawaiian Bank, I'm Jerry Roberts.

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