

The Wisdom of the Flying Geese

In the Spring when you see geese heading North for the Summer or South in the Fall, flying along in “V” formation, you might be interested in knowing what scientists have discovered about why they fly that way.

It has been learned that as each bird flaps its wings, it creates an uplift for the bird flying directly behind him. By flying in “V” formation, the whole flock adds at least 71% greater flying range than if each bird flew on its own.

Basic Truth #1 – *People who share a common direction and sense of community can get where they are going quicker and easier because they are traveling on the thrust of one another.*

Whenever a goose falls out of formation, it suddenly feels the drag and resistance of trying to go it alone and quickly gets back into formation to take advantage of the lifting power of the bird immediately in front of him.

Basic Truth #2 - *If we would learn from the geese, we will stay in formation with those who are heading in the same direction as we are.*

When the lead, or point, goose gets tired, he rotates back in the wing formation and another goose comes up to fly point.

Basic Truth #3 – *It pays to take turns doing hard jobs and realize that your ultimate success depends on working as a team and sharing leadership.*

The geese honk from behind to encourage those in front of them to keep up their speed.

Basic Truth #4 – *We need to be careful what we say from behind and let our “honking” be encouraging.*

Finally, when a goose gets sick, or is wounded by gunshot, and falls out, two geese fall out of formation and follow him down to help protect him. They stay with him until he is either able to fly or until he dies. Then they launch out on their own or with another formation until they catch up with their group.

Final Truth – *If we would truly learn from the geese, we will stand by each other, protect one another and make new friends who seem to be going in our direction.*

Job 12:7-9 (New International Version)

“But ask the animals, and they will teach you, or the birds of the air, and they will tell you; or speak to the earth, and it will teach you or let the fish of the sea inform you. Which of all these does not know that the hand of the LORD has done this?”

I guess someone asked the geese!