

# The Bee and the Butterfly

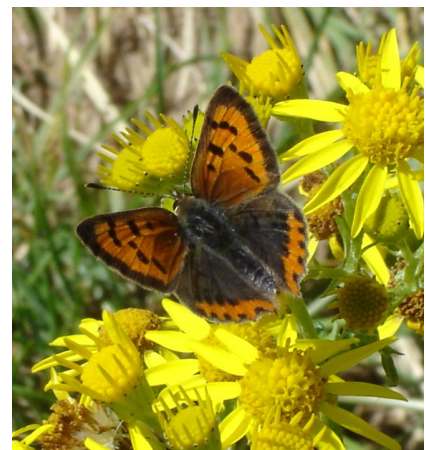
The Lord often speaks to us in simple ways if we have eyes to see and ears to listen to his voice. The same Jesus who used homely illustrations with which everyone would have been familiar speaks in the same way to us today.



One summer evening at dusk we went into our sunlounge. A large bumble bee was frantically trying to escape through the glass hitting the window repeatedly. There was an open window directly above but the bee went nowhere near it. By the time we returned with an implement to catch it, it seemed too late as it lay on the window sill motionless. We gently lifted it up and shook it out of the open window. To our delight it revived and we watched it dipping and rising in the warm evening air as it flew away.

Sometimes we can feel as trapped as that bumble bee. Circumstances overwhelm us; we are exhausted. We are certain that we can't take one more thing going wrong and then it happens! We begin to spin around our problems and difficulties quite convinced that no-one else understands. Maybe they don't. We are anxious, afraid and sometimes resentful. Slowly but surely despair begins to fill our hearts. There is an open window and that window is called "hope". There is someone who can save us and he is called Jesus.

About the same time as the incident with the bee, a Sister was reading in the garden. Suddenly a delicate, colourful butterfly gently alighted on the white page. It lingered for awhile and then fluttered away. The butterfly has long been a Christian symbol of the resurrection. This is God's promise that the cross is always followed by resurrection. "Those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength."<sup>i</sup> "The Lord delights in those who put their hope in his unfailing love."<sup>ii</sup>



Say these words over and over again. My hope is in the Lord.

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<sup>i</sup> Isaiah 40:31  
<sup>ii</sup> Psalm 147:11