



Tailed Hawk

&

Stevie

The Grey Haired

Squirrel

The Story Of:
Henry
The Red



By Grandpa Fillmore

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Chapter One – “How It All Started”

One beautiful summer day I was sitting out in our back yard just admiring all of God’s creation. I was listening to the ducks in the creek behind our house and over head there was a beautiful Cardinal just singing his heart out. In one of our bird feeders we had a couple of house wrens getting as much seed as they could carry and then hurrying home to one of our bird houses to feed their young. Now mind you I am I’m just enjoying the wonderful summer day that God had provided for us!

Well my friends this story was told to me by a rather old little grey squirrel and this is what happened. All of a sudden I have a little grey squirrel on my shoulder. Now mind you I am just about to scoot him away and he says into my ear,” don’t be afraid I want to tell you a story that happened a long time ago!

Wow a talking squirrel, am I losing my mind? Then he says “Please just sit in your chair and listen to my story!” Well what would you have done? I can tell you what I did, I took a deep breath and a long drink of water and sat back and listened to my new friend!

Now all I ask is that you sit back and relax while you read his story.

Chapter 2 “In the Woods”

Our story begins in the woods very near the grove of walnut trees. We will first meet Henry the Red Tailed Hawk. Henry is the last hatching of the summer. He is in the nest of two very much in love Red Tail Hawks whose names are Walter and Anna. They got married and built a very fine nest for raising a family. The tree that they selected was a very mighty old Oak tree that was tall and strong. It made a perfect place for a pair of Red Tailed Hawks to make their nest in and raise a family. The hunting for food was plentiful in the woods and the surrounding area. Even though the woods had many different types of trees in it like pines, Oaks, Ash, and walnut trees also. The woods were known as the Walnut Grove woods.

You know that hawks are meat eaters and they usually have to use their hunting skills to get their food. Hawks are not like Eagles who are content or I guess we could even say lazy.

The eagles will look for animals that have been hit by a car or truck and very soon afterward the animal dies. Enough about Eagles.

Let's get back to our couple of hawks Walter and Anna with the last hatching who they named Henry. Henry was rather small as far as red tails go but he was a fighter and he was always trying to take his solo flight. Henry would practice while his parents

were out looking for food for the whole family. Henry watched his brothers and sisters go on their solo flights and he watched as Mom and Dad would take them out into the woods and teach them how to find food and how to use the air currents to float through the air. Henry really wanted to be a part of all that but he just could not get the hang of flying so he would try all the



more so that he would be able, very soon, to join his parents and his brothers and sisters up in the air, soaring, floating, diving, and everything else that a young hawk needs to know how to do to survive!

One day near the in early fall Henry still had not taken his solo flight. He was very worried that he may never fly so he decided

that while the rest of the family was out on this beautiful October day he would make his solo flight and surprise the whole family when they returned to the nest. Henry would flap his little wings just as fast as he could and he would get a bit of a lift off or he would stay in the air for just a few seconds. Everything that

Henry did give him more confidence, so he would try even harder. The only problem was that with each attempt to fly Henry would exert more energy and tire himself out even more. Being tired did not stop Henry; he jumped up to the edge of the nest and tries again to just fly across his nest. It is late October and Henry knows that if he does not learn to fly very soon his parents will have to leave him and fly south for the winter. So now we have Henry standing on the edge of the nest almost dark and he wants so badly to fly.

That now he is on the edge of his nest looking out into the Walnut Grove woods, now when you add in the factor that he is physically exhausted but very determined. Henry makes his biggest jump off into the air and starts to flap his wings and what do you know he is flying for a little bit then along comes a cool gust of fall air and it carries Henry even farther into the evening air and away from the safety of his nest. All of a sudden Henry just can't flap his wings anymore and the cool breeze that carried him off has gone away. Henry finds himself falling towards the ground. Fortunate for him he lands in a pile of fallen leaves and all that gets



hurt is one wing but just a little.

Meanwhile the rest of Henrys family return to the nest and find it empty.

Have you ever returned to your house expecting your Mom or Dad to be waiting to see you but for some reason no is home that's scary isn't?

Well it was to Henrys family, to get back to their home and not find little Henry, very scary! Walter & Anna started to call for Henry but he did not hear them nor could he see them. Both parents screeched and called for their son, the baby of their brood little Henry, but all to no avail. What more could they do?

Walter flew down and looked all around the base of the mighty Oak tree, but again no Henry!

When Walter got back up to the nest of course Henry still was not home and the family decided to start a new search early the next morning because it was getting to dark to see anything.

Meanwhile little Henry lay in the leaf pile and has gotten his senses back and



remembers where he is and how he got into the trouble he was in! Poor Henry he finally fights his way to the top of the leaf pile even though his right wing hurts. While Henry lay on top of the leaf pile the moon raises and casts a light right on Henry so he was very easy to be seen. The first animal to come up to Henry was a mouse who when he saw that Henry was a red tail hawk scurried away as fast as he could. The next to spot Henry was a raccoon who when he saw Henry he walked way around him so as to stay away from Henry.

He told himself that it was none of his business so he had to stay out of and away from little Henry.

Now it didn't matter to these animals that Henry was hurt and needed help they just ignored him and didn't want to get involved at all. The next animal to spot Henry was a skunk that got just close enough to see Henry. He looked at the poor injured little hawk and then he turned, stuck his stinky nose up in the air and waddled off!

Chapter Three – “Stevie finds Henry”

Now along comes Stevie the grey squirrel and he spots Henry and he looks him over and then like a bolt of lightning hitting him he sees that little Henry is a red tail hawk.



Now red tail hawks and grey squirrels are not at all friendly to each other. As a matter of fact Stevie remembers when he was in 4 grade and coming home from a day of school and playing! As he happily jumped through the trees that a Red tail hawk dove at him to try to catch him for supper! Stevie saw him just in the nick of time and scampered into a hole in an old pine tree. A close call but as soon as that hawk was gone Stevie scampered home.

Now Stevie is a teenager. What? How do I know? Well Stevie told me of course. Now let's get back to our story shall we? OK!

Stevie the teenager was afraid to get too close to the hawk even though he could see that he was hurt. He tried to talk to Henry who by this time was hurt, cold, and hungry! So Stevie moved closer, Stevie could feel his legs and front paws shaking as he

kept inching closer and closer to little Henry. Finally in what seemed to take forever, here stood Stevie the squirrel right next to Henry.

Boy oh boy was Stevie ever shaking now! He spoke to Henry and Henry opened his eyes and saw this grey squirrel standing right next to him. Now Henry didn't know quite what to do, should he lunge at this squirrel and try to eat it, or what if the squirrel was going to hurt him. Well he said a quick prayer that maybe this young grey squirrel would help him somehow! At first they just looked at

each other then Stevie spoke to Henry and asked him how bad he was hurt! Henry told Stevie about how the only trouble was his right wing. Stevie told Henry that he would take care of him but first he had to move him under the big Oak tree that was rotting some and a ground



Owl had nested in the base a year or so back . Stevie figured out that Henry would be safe in the base of the tree and then he would look for something for Henry to eat. Well let me tell you

that it was no small task to push and pull Henry into the hole at the base of that Oak tree.

But he made it and Henry was safe in the base of the tree.

Now the hour was getting late even for a squirrel who is a teenager. So Stevie knew that he had to get home soon!

He told Henry that he was going to cover both him and the base of the Oak tree so as to keep Henry warm. He also told Henry not to worry about anything just to say his prayers and Stevie would be back as soon as he could.

After Stevie's act of kindness and being a Good Samaritan, he knew that Henry really needed more than just his help. As Stevie lay in his nest and said his prayers he asked God to help him to take care of little Henry and to guide him to whoever could or would help him!

The next day Stevie got up with the sun even though he was still pretty tired he knew that he had made a promise to Henry and no matter how tired he was, he was going to keep his promise! Stevie had a breakfast of champions at least as far as a squirrel is concerned. He had some fresh walnuts and water. The water he got from the dew on the leaves that grew on the tree where his nest was.

What do you mean How do I know these things? I already told you the grey squirrel told me and I believed him! Wouldn't you? Ok then shall we get back to the story? Good, where was I?

Oh that's right Stevie was eating breakfast. Well sir as soon as he finished he was off to check on his new friend! Now Stevie wasn't just too sure what all young hawks ate but he knew that he had seen the Robins and some of the other birds in his neighborhood eating angle worms so he decided that is what he would bring for Henry to munch on!

If Stevie could find any. You know looking for angle worms is not something that squirrels do; they eat nuts and seeds and stuff like that not worms.

Along the way Stevie ran into some of his friends in the Walnut Grove Woods. He took the time to ask for their help in finding a way to get Henry home. His friends did not have any ideas but they would keep looking and doing whatever they could to help!



Stevie takes off on a very fast scamper across the ground in hopes to find some worms for Henry. He spots one, just to his right; he races over just in time to watch it disappear down its hole.

This happened several times to Stevie and he was getting frustrated and just plain beside himself. He could not catch an angle worm no matter what he tried to do.

Then it happened he spotted a pile of worms and they were all tangled up together.

What luck! Was it luck or was God helping Stevie take care of his new injured friend just like Stevie had asked him to do in his prayers? What do you think? Yea me too I think that God was answering Stevie's prayers!



So Stevie runs over by the worms and grabs a big handful and starts to take off! Well in a couple of steps he discovers how hard it is to hang on to worms because they are slippery and a little slimy. Now remember that squirrels do not eat or have anything to do with angle worms but he knows that Henry will need the food so he makes a big face as only squirrels can do and he quickly stuffs the worms in his mouth and off he goes to help his friend!

Would you put a bunch of worms in your mouth? Of course not but for a friend you might eat those veggies that you really don't care for, no matter how good they are for you, Right?

Good now that's the kind of friend we all need and want to be. Stevie gets to the big old Oak and starts to dig all of the leaves out of the way so that he can get to his friend Henry.

Chapter Four – “Stevie Gets Henry Home”

Finally the leaves are gone and Stevie can see Henry. Stevie quickly moves in close and spits out the worms! Yuck claims Stevie! Henry sees the worms, and even though worms are not



in the normal diet of a hawk they look and taste good to Henry. As soon as Henry finishes eating Stevie asks him how he is feeling and can he move his wing easier after a good night's rest. Henry replies that it seems better but he will not be able to tell until he gets out of the base of the tree and tries to fly.

Henry crawls out into the open and tries to move his wings one at a time first the left one (his good one), no trouble there. Now the moment of truth, his right wing unfolds and slowly, very slowly, Henry moves it up and down. Well it is stiff and a wee bit sore but everything works!! Hurray says Stevie and Henry.

But now how does Stevie get his new friend home and where is his home! Just about this time one of Stevie's friends comes along and says that the mighty old Oak tree has a nest of red Tail Hawks in it and they are all in a tizzy about something. The little bunny says he could not get too close because he is very

much afraid of the red tail hawk family. Now Stevie knows just where the mighty old oak tree is because he has collected acorns in that area before the hawks moved in to the neighborhood.

Stevie takes a big swallow and tells Henry his plan to get him home!

Can you fly at all do you think? Henry tries to get up off the ground but not much success. So Stevie tells Henry that they will walk to the mighty old oak tree.

Around lunch time they arrive near the base of the mighty old oak tree and they can hear Walter and Anna calling and calling for Henry. Henry is too weak to call back so it is up to Stevie the grey squirrel to let Walter and Anna and the rest of the family know where little Henry is!



Now you must remember that squirrels and hawks are not good buddies, they are really never in each other ones neighborhood. But Stevie knows that Henry needs his parents very much and it



is all up to him. Stevie picks out an oak tree next to the one the hawk family has their nest in and he begins to go up the tree. Henry's family is so busy that they do not notice Stevie so he

keeps climbing until he is at a branch that he can jump on to and very quickly get to the nest! This is more scary stuff for our Good Samaritan but he has no choice remember how Stevie asked God to help him, to help his new friend, well Stevie says another prayer and asks for God's help that the hawks listen to him and not eat him! But he knows that whatever happens it is the will of God, because He knows best. So with the prayer on his lips Stevie the grey squirrel leaps over to the mighty old oak tree and he very quickly scampers to the nest!

"Stop Don't Eat Me I Bring Little Henry to you!" "Please I am here to help!" Walter and Anna are so happy to have news of their Henry that munching on Stevie is their last thought. Stevie tells them that Henry is at the base of the mighty old oak tree. Now he no sooner gets the words out of his mouth and down to the base the whole family flies to see Henry.

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