

Leaning on the Everlasting Arms

I. Introduction

- A. As the hymn “Leaning on the Everlasting Arms” expresses, God’s faithful children can and *should* lean on Him, especially through trials. Consider three specific characteristics of God that show His perfect suitability as the One to lean on for strength, and how we ought to respond in light of this. *Hymns for Worship, Song 402; Deuteronomy 33:27*

II. God is All-Seeing

- A. God is *all-seeing*. He is aware of all that we do, say, and think. He is aware of all that goes on in our lives. **Hebrews 4:13**
- B. While this should cause the hypocrite to tremble (and repent), the faithful child of God should be *comforted* by God’s all-seeing nature. It is a joy that God knows our deeds, and that He is fully aware and perfectly understands catastrophes, health problems, losses, and other trials we face. **Revelation 2:9**

III. God is Caring

- A. While it is good to lean on someone who *understands* hardships we face, it is even better for that person to *care*. God’s perfect awareness works hand-in-hand with His *care* for us. *Hymns for Worship, Song 466*
- B. It is amazing to know that the Creator of this world allows us to speak to Him and cast our anxieties on Him. It is even more striking, though, that He *wants* us to do this because of His love and concern for us. **1 Peter 5:7**

IV. God is Faithful

- A. A third characteristic of God that shows how appropriate it is for us to lean on Him is His *faithfulness*. God’s faithfulness assures that He can be depended on to make sure that no temptation we face is unbearable. **1 Corinthians 10:13**
- B. More generally, God’s faithfulness means He can be trusted to follow through with *everything* He promises. He can be trusted because He is *trustworthy*.
- C. God’s faithfulness is the foundation of the Christian’s hope that anchors the soul. Because God “cannot lie,” we have assurance that the righteous will be raised to eternal life. **Titus 1:2**
- D. The faithfulness of God assures that He is always available to hear the prayers of any one of His faithful children, and that He will never leave us or forsake us. **Hebrews 13:5**

V. The Appropriate Response

- A. In light of God’s understanding, care, and faithfulness, it is fitting for us to cast our cares on Him in confident trust and gratitude. **Philippians 4:6**
- B. It is also fitting for us to meditate on the beautiful truths contained in His revealed Word. **Philippians 4:8**

V. Conclusion

- A. When faced with any difficulty, it is nice to be able to speak to someone who understands, cares, and can be depended on to help. No one understands as well as God. No one cares more than He does. No one is as faithful as Him. Because of who *He* is, those who faithfully submit to Him have access to a deep and permanent sense of joy, hope, and peace that far outweighs anything the world can offer. May we appreciate who He is, and lean on His everlasting arms. **2 Corinthians 1:3-4**