

THE EVERLASTING ARMS

The eternal God is your refuge, and underneath are the everlasting arms.
Deuteronomy 33:27 – also read Psalm 91

It is so easy to get used to being the strong and responsible one that you forget you too have needs and moments of weakness. You forget—or often choose not to face the reality—that you cannot relax your stance even for a moment, especially if it even slightly feels like certain disaster is on the horizon. You hold tight the reins of your life, making sure that you have all your bases covered, every job accomplished, and every task completed on time, but unfortunately those reins become entwined around you. They are held so tightly that you feel letting go—dropping your guard, relaxing, resting, having fun—will be like committing suicide. In their grip, you start to choke.

You find yourself asking these questions: “Where do **I** go for support? So many depend on me; whom do **I** depend on? Where is *my* leaning post? Who takes time to listen to *me*? How do **I** get my needs met that enable me to positively and freely serve the Lord?” Can you agree with me that we all have “**Been there, done that!**” which brings me to a story I read that I would like to share with you.

“An image comes to my mind of a woman who has fallen into a dark, dried-up well of undetermined depth. Clinging to the end of a rope, she holds on for dear life, yelling at the top of her lungs for help. Finally, when she has been hauled to the surface, her hands have to be pried from the death grip she has on the rope. One of her rescuers notes the approximate length of the rope and observes that it is nearly as long as the well is deep—short only by about the woman’s height. Sure enough, a tape measure is dropped into the black hole and the rescuers determine that the woman was dangling only inches from the bottom. The whole time she was clinging on for dear life, she could have been standing. She could have used her strength, or at least save it, to assist in her own rescue when the time came.”

We, at this point, have our own ideas on what she should have done. Some of you may be saying, “But, she didn’t know!” that is true; she didn’t know and neither do you or I until someone either illuminates our pit or measures the rope while we dangle there. We need one another and we certainly need God in those times of intense emotional demands or financial strain or when circumstances and relationships are strained to their limits.

We need to remember that we can let go of the ropes of our lives and drop, assured of the security that waits to catch us. Remember that directly underneath us are the everlasting arms of our heavenly Father. God is always there. Life may take more than it gives, but God is always there to give more, so much more than life can ever take.

Don't hang on when God is saying to "**Drop!**" Amen!

PRAYER: Father, when we get tangled up in our problems, help us to be still, and wait for Your directions. Let us be assured of Your ever loving presence. Help us to be willing to take chances and not let fear rule our lives. For if we never "step out" in faith then we will never experience all that You have planned for our lives. We see a gigantic mountain while you are trying to tell us it is only a mole hill. We see a road full of pot holes while in essence there is only a few. When we encounter difficult problems, help us to see them through Your eyes, therefore solving them through your perspective. God help us to yield our minds to you so that You can teach us Your ways. I leave you with this thought—if you can't be still, how can He untangle the knots?