



LEANING ON THE EVERLASTING ARMS!

Introduction:

- A. Pictures Of Wounded People Leaning On Others For Support.
 1. **(Slide #2)** Derek Redmond -- British 400 meter runner; in the 1992 Barcelona Olympic games semi-final race, he had a terrible injury in the back stretch of the race, about 250 meters from the finish line -- he tore his hamstring. He was not going to be able to finish the race. (▶) His father, Jim Redmond, came out of the stands, barging past security officers, and helped him walk the rest of the race. As he crossed the finish line, the crowd of 65,000 fans gave him a standing ovation! This event became one of the focuses of the International Olympic Committee's "Celebrate Humanity" videos.
 2. **(Slide #3)** In a 2012 3,200 meter high school race in Ohio, Arden McMath's body gave out; she fell to the track. Meghan Vogel, a 17 year old West Liberty-Salem High School junior who was in last place, caught up with McMath. Instead of zipping past McMath to avoid the last-place finish, Vogel put McMath's arm around her shoulders, half-dragging and half-carrying her about 30 meters to the finish line. When they got to the finish line, Vogel pushed McMath, a 16 year old sophomore from Arlington High School in Findlay, OH, over the finish line so she would not end up in last place.
- B. Pictures Of A Parent Who Comforts A Hurting Child!
 1. **(Slide #4)** Father
 2. **(Slide #5)** Mother
- C. Life Has SO MANY Struggles; Many Of Us Need Support.
 1. Deaths -- mates, close friends, mates of co-workers
 2. Cancer -- personally, close family, extended family
 3. Health issues
 4. Disappointments

5. Hurts
6. Fears
7. Sins and the accompanying guilt

D. **(Slide #6)** “Arms” Biblically.

1. “Strength” -- “Power & Might!”
 - a. Ez. 30:21-23 “Son of man, I have broken the arm of Pharaoh king of Egypt; and see, it has not been bandaged for healing, nor a splint put on to bind it, to make it strong enough to hold a sword. ²²Therefore thus says the Lord GOD: ‘Surely I *am* against Pharaoh king of Egypt, and will break his arms, both the strong one and the one that was broken; and I will make the sword fall out of his hand. ²³I will scatter the Egyptians among the nations, and disperse them throughout the countries.’”
 - b. Ez. 30:24,25 “I will strengthen the arms of the king of Babylon and put My sword in his hand; but I will break Pharaoh’s arms, and he will groan before him with the groanings of a mortally wounded *man*. ²⁵Thus I will strengthen the arms of the king of Babylon, but the arms of Pharaoh shall fall down; they shall know that I *am* the LORD, when I put My sword into the hand of the king of Babylon and he stretches it out against the land of Egypt.”
2. “Influence”
3. “Support”
4. “Able To Care And Deliver”

E. **(Slide #7)** Jesus -- Hymn “Leaning On The Everlasting Arms”

Verse 1:

“What a fellowship, what a joy divine,
 Leaning on the everlasting arms;
 What a blessedness, what a peace is mine,
 Leaning on the everlasting arms.

Refrain:

Leaning, leaning, safe and secure from all alarms;
 Leaning, leaning, leaning on the everlasting arms.

Verse 2:

O how sweet to walk in this pilgrim way,
Leaning on the everlasting arms;
O how bright the path grows from day to day,
Leaning on the everlasting arms.

Refrain:

Leaning, leaning, safe and secure from all alarms;
Leaning, leaning, leaning on the everlasting arms.

Verse 3:

What have I to dread, what have I to fear,
Leaning on the everlasting arms;
I have blessed peace with my Lord so near,
Leaning on the everlasting arms.

Refrain:

Leaning, leaning, safe and secure from all alarms;
Leaning, leaning, leaning on the everlasting arms.”

Words: Elisha A Hoffman -- 1830-1929

Music: Anthony J. Showalter -- 1858-1924

I. (Slide #8) God’s Powerful, Loving, And Supportive Arms!

A. (▶) His Powerful Arms:

1. (▶) Made the worlds!

- a. Jer. 27:5 “I have made the earth, the man and the beast that *are* on the ground, by My great power and by My outstretched arm.”
- b. He designed the universe perfectly; Christ created it; He spoke it into existence! Jn.1:3; Heb. 1:1,2; Col. 1:16

2. (▶) Defeat His enemies!

- a. Ps. 98:1 “Oh, sing to the LORD a new song! For He has done marvelous things; His right hand and His holy arm have gained Him the victory.”
- b. Ps. 89:10 “You have broken Rahab in pieces, as one who is slain; You have scattered Your enemies with Your mighty arm.”
- c. His holiness will always prevail!

3. (▶) Deliver His people from destroyers!
 - a. Ex. 6:6 “Therefore say to the children of Israel: ‘I *am* the LORD; I will bring you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians, I will rescue you from their bondage, and I will redeem you with an outstretched arm and with great judgments.’”
 - b. Dt. 9:29 “Yet they *are* Your people and Your inheritance, whom You brought out by Your mighty power and by Your outstretched arm.”
 - c. Moses reminded the children of those who left Egypt that God would continue to deliver them! Dt. 33:27 “The eternal God *is your* refuge, And underneath *are* the everlasting arms; He will thrust out the enemy from before you, And will say, ‘Destroy!’”
 1. Moses gave these encouraging words to Israel just before he died!
 2. He will destroy the enemies that you face as you go into Canaan!
 - d. Ps. 136:10-12 “To Him who struck Egypt in their firstborn, For His mercy *endures* forever; ¹¹And brought out Israel from among them, For His mercy *endures* forever; ¹²With a strong hand, and with an outstretched arm, For His mercy *endures* forever;”
 - e. Is. 63:12 “Who led *them* by the right hand of Moses, With His glorious arm, Dividing the water before them To make for Himself an everlasting name,”

4. (▶) Overthrow evil rulers and empires!
 - a. Jer. 27:5 “by My outstretched arm, and have given it to whom it seemed proper to Me.”
 - b. Is. 52:10 “The LORD has made bare His holy arm In the eyes of all the nations; And all the ends of the earth shall see The salvation of our God.”
 - c. God told Zedekiah, the last king of Judah: “I Myself will fight against you with an outstretched hand and with a strong arm, even in anger and fury and great wrath.” Jer. 21:5. He would deliver them into Babylonian Captivity!

- B. (▶) His SUPPORTIVE Arms!
 1. Is. 41:10 He told Judah: “Fear not, for I *am* with you; Be not dismayed, for I *am* your God. I will strengthen you, Yes, I will help you, I will uphold you with My righteous right hand.”
 2. Mt. 11:28-30 “Come to Me, all *you* who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. ²⁹Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰For My yoke *is* easy and My burden is light.”

C. (►) His LOVING Arms!

1. Is. 66:13 “As one whom his mother comforts, So I will comfort you; And you shall be comforted in Jerusalem.”
2. His arms are as comforting and loving as the arms of a mother when her child faces fears or hurts!
3. II Cor. 1:3,4 “Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, ⁴who comforts us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort those who are in any trouble, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God.”
4. His arms embraced and blessed children!
 - a. Mk. 10:13-16 “Then they brought little children to Him, that He might touch them; but the disciples rebuked those who brought *them*. ¹⁴But when Jesus saw *it*, He was greatly displeased and said to them, ‘Let the little children come to Me, and do not forbid them; for of such is the kingdom of God. ¹⁵Assuredly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will by no means enter it.’ ¹⁶And He took them up in His arms, put *His* hands on them, and blessed them.”
 - b. Lk. 18:15-17 “Then they also brought infants to Him that He might touch them; but when the disciples saw *it*, they rebuked them. ¹⁶But Jesus called them to *Him* and said, ‘Let the little children come to Me, and do not forbid them; for of such is the kingdom of God. ¹⁷Assuredly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will by no means enter it.’”
5. His loving arms offer a welcome call to sinners to repent; they lovingly present a “Welcome Home” to the penitent!
 - a. They provide a welcome call to sinners to repent!
 1. Rom. 10:21 “But to Israel he says: ‘*All day long I have stretched out My hands To a disobedient and contrary people.*’”
 2. God wants all people to come to Him for salvation; He still has a huge place in His heart for Israel and holds out His hands to them welcoming them to “Come back to Him!”
 - b. When sinners repent, He extends His arms in a “Welcome Home!”
 1. In the Parable of The Prodigal Son you see this love.
 2. Lk. 15:20 “And he arose and came to his father. But when he was still a great way off, his father saw him and had compassion, and ran and fell on his neck and kissed him.”
 3. As the humiliated and humbled boy returns home in shame, the father welcomes him with open arms of love!

II. (Slide #9) God Precious And Dependable Arms!

A. (▶) They Are EVERLASTING Arms! Dt. 33:27

1. They will always be there for His people!
2. They will never fail as the arms of humans will!

B. (▶) They Are HOLY Arms!

1. Ps. 98:1 “His right hand and His holy arm have gained Him the victory.”
2. Is. 52:10 “The LORD has made bare His holy arm In the eyes of all the nations; And all the ends of the earth shall see The salvation of our God.”
3. They will always do what is right! They will always be righteous and just!

C. (▶) They Are UNCHANGING Arms!

1. Humans can be SO changeable; they may be supportive at times; they may be totally unsupportive at other times!
2. “Hold To God’s Unchanging Hands!”

D. (Slide #10) They Are Arms Of FELLOWSHIP!

1. When His arms are around you and on your side, you know that all is well in your relationship with Him.
2. “It Is Well With My Soul!”

E. (▶) They Are Arms Of SAFETY!

1. As the Hymn “Leaning On The Everlasting Arms” says: “safe and secure from all alarms!”
2. Is. 40:11 “He will feed His flock like a shepherd; He will gather the lambs with His arm, And carry *them* in His bosom, And gently lead those who are with young.”

F. (▶) They Are Arms Of JOY And PEACE!

1. They remove fear; they provide joy and peace!
2. WHAT PEACE and WHAT COMFORT His arms provide.
3. There can be joy in the midst of life’s worst turmoil, fear, and uncertainties!

4. As the Hymn “Leaning On The Everlasting Arms” says:

“What have I to dread, what have I to fear,
Leaning on the everlasting arms;
I have blessed peace with my Lord so near,
Leaning on the everlasting arms.”

G. (▶) They Are MIGHTY Arms!

1. Life can be devastating; it can throw more at you than you think you can bear!
2. Story of Franklin L. Eiland, the author of the hymn “Lean On The Mighty Arm Of Jesus!”
 - a. Franklin was a man who knew how tough life could be!
 - b. He was born to and raised by farmers.
 - c. His parents were James Eiland and Sarah Ann Savage.
 - d. He was born in Noxubee County, MS on March 25, 1860.
 - e. He moved to TX in 1882. He was a farmer also.
 - f. On Nov. 13, 1884, he married Mary E. Nisbett of Robertson County, TX. She died nine years after they were married.
 - g. After her death, he married Ella May Kennedy of Van Zandt County in 1894. Ella died 10 days after the marriage!
 - h. On Oct. 21, 1896, he married a third wife, Minnie Jarushia Valentine of McLennan County.
3. He wrote the Hymn: “Lean On The Mighty Arm Of Jesus!”

Verse 1:

“Lean on the mighty arm of Jesus
Hide in the hollow of His hand;
‘Neath His protecting wings abide you,
Firm on the Rock of Ages stand.

Verse 2:

Lean on the mighty arm of Jesus
Wait you not for the morning dawn;
Ev’ning of life may come and find you,
And with your strength and courage gone.

Verse 3:

Lean on the mighty arm of Jesus
For 'tis the only refuge sure;
Let not another's invitation
Now from this hope, your soul allure.

Verse 4:

Lean on the mighty arm of Jesus
And of His boundless mercy share;
Drink of the ever living fountain
Down by the Rock of Ages there.”

(Slide #11) Conclusion:

- A. I Don't Know All That You Are Facing This Morning -- Only God Does!

- B. (▶) Let Him Be Your Refuge, Your Rock, And Redeemer!

- C. (▶) Flee To Him When Life Is Falling Apart!

- D. (▶) Run To His Arms For Mercy, Grace, And Salvation!

- E. (▶) Lean On Him The Rest Of Your Life! Live The Rest Of Your Life:
 - 1. “Leaning On Jesus!”

 - 2. “Leaning On The Mighty Arm Of Jesus!”