



S E R M O N G U I D E

No Limits with Pastor Delman

Leaning On Everlasting Arms

Exodus 16:22-23

NOTES INTRODUCTION There is a poetic proverb that states, "If religion were something that money could buy, the rich would live and the poor would die." We all know that religion falls far short of what is required if we are to enjoy a healthy relationship with God, and rather than trying to appease God through performance, let us find comfort in the capacity to be at peace with God. Rest is a remedy for spiritual anxiety. It is a remedy for religious striving and feeling that we have to prove our fidelity to God and hold on so tight out of fear we might lose Him. In this message, we're going to look at how we can lean on the everlasting arms of God and rest in His presence, rather than continuing to strive for perfect performance. **KEY POINTS** 1. Stop Chasing God There is a distinction in Scripture between a healthy pursuit of God rooted in safety, and an unhealthy pursuit of religious things rooted in insecurity. Isaiah 55:6 says, "Seek the Lord while He may be found, and call upon Him while He is near." In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus said, "Blessed are they who hunger and thirst after righteousness for they shall be filled." The place from which God wants us to seek Him is a place of safety, not insecurity. Rather than doing religious things to keep God close, rather than performing religious rites out of worry and fear, and rather than succumbing to anxiety about whether we can trust that God is still there, God wants us to rest knowing He'll always be right there. 2. Start Trusting God Trust is the key to our relationship with him. It is the writer of Hebrews who says, "God who will never leave us or forsake us." God is the same today, yesterday, and forever more. To be sure, we all need to know that we have a relationship with God that we can count on. Even when we don't get it right, and we miss the mark, and in spite of the fact that we aren't perfect, the recurring theme of Scripture is that God never gives up on us. We mess up, yes, but God gives us another chance. He doesn't abandon us. He doesn't walk away from us. We should be able to navigate the circumstances of life knowing that our relationship with God is never in question.

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What we long for is to relax into the arms of God knowing that nothing can separate us from the love of God. Paul conveyed this confidence in Romans 8:38-39, "For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord." When you trust that God is there and that God is going to be there, you don't have to focus on the status of your relationship with God all the time. You can lean on His everlasting arms.

NOTES

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QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

- 1. Have you ever been in a place where you felt like you were chasing God or trying to prove yourself to Him? How did that impact the way you viewed God and your relationship with Him?
- 2. When was a time you trusted God with a situation instead of trying to control it? What did you learn from that experience?

•	3. Is there any aspect of your life right now where you aren't fully trusting God? If so, what is keeping you from completely surrendering and trusting Him?
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