

"The eternal God is your dwelling place, and underneath are the everlasting arms..." - Deuteronomy 33:27a

As Moses faced his death, he spoke these words in a final blessing to Israel. He assured the people of the presence of God's "everlasting arms" – an indication of the divine faithfulness, strength and protection extended to them. The term "arm" is used throughout the Bible as a sign of God's powerful response toward his enemies (Exodus 6:6; Psalm 77:15; Isaiah 52:10). The passage from Deuteronomy takes the idea a step further: not only is God's protection "everlasting" (as opposed to the temporal nature of Israel's enemies), but there is a dwelling place with God and in God for those who belong to him.

God calls us to dwell in him, to stay put, to remain rooted, to abide. Jesus stated this idea to his disciples clearly: *"I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing"* (John 15:5).

We often use the word "dependence" in a negative way, but God seems to revel in reminding us that we are utterly, completely and desperately dependent upon him. Since we are incapable of accomplishing anything of eternal significance by our own power, when we depend wholly upon God, not only does he receive all the glory for the work, but we learn to live with deeper humility and trust.

Prayer is an act of humble dependence. A lack of prayer indicates the presence of pride. Calling out to God is the act of a strong person asking for a second wind, but a weak person asking for the next breath.

Prayer prompt: Read Psalm 62, and as you read, make the psalm your prayer to God. Ask God to show you any areas of your life where you might be avoiding dependence upon his power and protection. Pray that God would reveal anything that you depend upon instead of trusting him fully and lead you to a place of deep dependence and total confidence in him.

"...Nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mankind life and breath and everything."

- Acts 17:25

Prayer is expressed helplessness. When we're not engaged in prayer, it's because we feel like "we got this." The extent to which you are not engaged in prayer is the extent to which you are relying on your own strength.

- Jared C. Wilson

Prayer is one of the primary demonstrations of our selflessness and God's self-centeredness. In our selflessness, you and I realize that it is impossible for us to accomplish his purpose in our own strength. So we express our dependence upon God in prayer, and he delights in showing his glory by giving us everything we need for the accomplishment of his purpose. Through prayer, God gives grace to us in such a way that he receives glory for himself. Prayer is a nonnegotiable priority for selfless followers of a self-centered God.

– David Platt