

Everest: Conquering Challenges with God's Mighty Power
By Amanda A. Nevin

- Each day's theme focused on an aspect of God's mighty power. We are encouraged as the people of God to "hold on" to these truths when we face challenges in our life

Slide 2: Klymer the Snow Leopard

Slide 3: Day 1 God has the power to provide--- HOLD ON!- God provided everything the snow leopard needed – paws to climb the mountains, fur coat warm enough for the harsh winters

- Story of Elijah: lived 874-853 BCE;
 - Called for people, specifically the rulers of Israel and Judah to put their faith in God, rather than the false god of Baal
 - What are our false gods today?

Slide 4: Money, Insurance, Retirement Savings, Friends, Family, Power, Prestige, Work, Popularity, the Selfie (ourselves); our abilities; health, education

Slide 5: What happens when any one of those items fails us? The stock market crashes & our retirement goes; when we lose a job, or our family/friends change; our health changes, our abilities become limited or changed—what we had hoped would give us the ability to work, live and have a full life is now limited because of physical limitations.....

Slide 6:

where do you put your trust? Where is your hope? In God. God is bigger than any of our needs and he has the power to provide. What we fail to understand at times is that what we want is not always what we need, what we desire is not always what we are going to get. We are called to seek God's face, to trust in him in all circumstances, to have faith that God is holy and just and that God will provide. To trust that God is bigger than us, and that we can't nor will we ever fully understand his ways so we are called to Hold On.

We are not going to understand or even like how he provides for us at times, it may be in ways that we need and not want. We have a very limited perspective of the whole of our life, we cannot see into the future and we cannot know how the past will shape our today or tomorrow, only God can know the full story so even in his provision while we don't always see what God is up to and why things good and bad happen in our life, in all things they work for the glory of God who does provide in his holy and mysterious ways even if we can't see it in this life time. God does provide but maybe we need to change our perspective on how we see God's provision- a friend to comfort us in need, a stranger to say hi and change our day; a financial planner to help us in our crisis, a friend to clean out our homes when it is too painful for us to do.. God does provide but do we see it?

Slide 7: Day 2 Cliff the Marmot! God has the power to comfort—little cliff is cute and cuddle and "warms your heart"

Slide 8: 1 Kings 19

- As Elijah fled King Ahab and his wife Jezebel, Elijah had one of the lowest moments in his calling as a prophet
- Even to the point that he wanted God to take his life and his ministry away from him
- God comforted Elijah not with what he wanted (the thunder, the storm, earthquake) but in a gentle whisper, God reminded Elijah in the whisper that he was there

Slide 9

- What are things that make us afraid?
 - Unknown future
 - Finances
 - Being secure in retirement
 - New Schools (going to a new school or school transitions: jr high to high school; high school to college; college to graduation and work)
 - New jobs
 - Making new friends
 - The world around us–
 - This past week we heard the tragic events in Charleston, SC where even in the sanctuary of God there was violence.
 - The rise of violence in our nation, the virtual hate that people spew towards others, the fear of being different, our issues as a nation with racism and injustice
 - weather that causes destruction
 - Spiders, heights.
 - You name it we live in a broken world.

Slide 10

- Why is this important to address our fears?
- God is always with us! We are NEVER alone!
- God has the power to provide our need in the moment, which may be a kind word from a stranger, a comforting hug from someone, a note of thanks in the mailbox, a pat on the back with a “Great job”
- Friends/family who surround us and love us,
- Through the quiet whisper of His word we know that in life and in death we belong to God! If that is our truth and our hope then nothing in this world will ever be able to separate us from Him who loves us.! That in itself should be a comforting hope
- Do we find comfort in knowing that God does not abandon us?
- God has the power to comfort, do we see it? Feel it? Or do we chalk up to some random “coincidences” or do you see the face God in that moment of comfort?

Psalm 139:1-9

Slide 11: Mallory Bar-Headed Goose! God as the power to heal!

Slide 12: Story of Naaman: was a general in the neighboring kingdoms army who was suffering from leprosy. He asked his king if he could go the King of Israel to seek out the prophet Elisha. king agreed to allow him to go. So he goes to the King of Israel with a letter seeking help> the King shows him Elisha who then instructs him to go dip in the river 7 times. Naaman at first walks away angry and rather disappointed telling himself that he could have done on his own why did he need to go to see Elisha if Elisha wasn't going to perform the miracle? But one of his servants tells him, to go and do as Elisha said, so Naaman goes and is healed!

Slide 13: Where do we need healing?

- Broken relationships
- Illnesses- mental/physical/spiritual;
- our sin/our brokenness
- Violence/destruction/past and present hurts
- Healing as a nation with issues like Racism, poverty, economic and political injustice

Slide 14: We long for Instant Gratification

- We want instant gratification for our problems, healings, concerns
- God's healing isn't usually instant
- Sometimes it doesn't happen in the way our hearts long for
- Sometimes it never happens here on earth
- Sometimes healing happens gradually, slowly, and with only minor effects
- Sometimes it comes in ways that we don't understand
- Sometimes we are called to be the agents of healing and we tell ourselves "others can work for justice I'm too busy," that issue doesn't affect me so I don't need to get involved.
- When we hear of the events in Charleston, SC last week, what was your response? Was it even a blip on the radar for you? Do you hear about it and think "that is sad", did we get angry or upset?
- Sometimes we think to ourselves- I'm not directly affected so while I will pray for that community that's where our assistance ends
- Where is righteous anger from God's people saying enough is enough? Where are we as people saying we need to be the agents of healing in our world?
- We never know how we will be impacted. I learned this week that a friend from seminary's mother was one of those victims--- in a country as large as ours and with as many people as we have it was shocking to think that I knew someone directly who was impacted in a real way by this shooting. What is my responsibility as God's follower?
- I think we all have the responsibility to step up and be agents of God's healing. To see that the world is broken around us, to call upon our legislators to make efforts to decrease guns on our streets; to reach out and call for justice and economic equality; to be advocates for those who are powerless; to be open and honest about racism in our country and not be afraid to learn how to deal with it in a healing manner. To learn to curb our tongues and to listen without judgement, without be "Know it alls" and to pray!
- Healing can begin with us, changing how we react, how we love, how we show grace
- Can it happen instantly- no way! But we can be the agents of healing.

Slide 15: One of the biggest/hardest for us to understand

- God's healing is hard for us especially when
 - It doesn't happen the way we pray for
 - It doesn't happen in the timing we want
 - It doesn't happen to those whom we love
- Healing may not happen until we reach heaven & yet the assurance we have is that GOD is always with us!!

Slide 16: Goat Introduction: Markhors- God has the Power to Forgive—the markhors horns remind us that we “sin”

Slide 17: The Most Important Truth! God showed us his love in this....

- While we were still sinners Christ died for us, Christ rose for us, Christ reigns for us!
- We are a forgiven people.....

Slide 18: “For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten son, so that whoever believes in him will not perish but have everlasting life. Indeed, God did not send his son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.” John 3:16-17

This is the gospel! Christ came to pour out his heart and his love for all who put their faith in him. There is a great new contemporary song by Danny Gokey—“More than you think I am”, in the song—he writes about God, God is speaking to us. God says “rumor has it there is a gavel in my hand I’m only here to condemn! But let me tell you secrets you will never know I think of you as my best friends. So much has been said even done in my name, but I’m showing you now who I really am I’m more than you dream, more than you understand, your days and times were destined for our dance. I Catch all your tears, burn your name on my heart, be still and trust my plan, I’m more than you think I Am. I’m more than you think I am..” God is more than we think he is, he is our provider, our comforter, our healer, he forgives us, and loves us no matter what, and he longs to lavishes his love upon us.

Slide 19: Yeddy the Bear...God has the power to love us forever!!!!

Slide 20: God has the power to love us forever!!!!

- What does forever mean?
- We can’t fathom this word at times, nothing lasts forever in this world that we can see/experience....

Slide 21:

- We think as kids we will live forever, we know as adults that doesn’t happen
- We promise to love our spouse forever, sometimes that doesn’t happen
- We tell our best friends in high school that we will be best friends forever, that doesn’t always happen
- Energizer Bunny batteries “keep going and going” but do they last forever- no

Slide 22: God’s love lasts forever

- We can’t fathom this fully,
 - we doubt it,
 - we question,
 - we wonder if we are good enough,
 - worthy enough,
 - if God really forgives.

- We wonder if we can “do” stuff to assure our salvation. We take our salvation for granted.

Slide 23: Love ran Red

Slide 24:

- God’s love ran red on the cross for us!
 - Poured out his love for us,
- God’s love reminds us that we are His forever and we are loved by him no matter what; when we turn our life over to him... he provides, comforts, heals and forgives us in ways that we don’t always see/understand or even like. And yet in it all he Love us no matter what!
- We are called to hold on to the truth that God has the power over life and death, power over all things
- This truth should overwhelm us, change us, cause us to dance, to sing, to worship and spend our days in praise because of God’s everlasting love!!!! This truth should compel us to be changed inside and out by God and to go and be his agents of comfort, healing and grace.