

Dealing With Enemy Conflict

Part Two

Exodus 17:8-13

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Background

- The Amalekite army had mounted a surprise attack on the children of Israel (and remember they were relatives)
- Moses' strategy was for Joshua to take a detachment of Israelite soldiers and fight against the Amalekites while he, his brother Aaron, and Hur, would climb a hill and he would lift up his rod to God symbolizing petitioning/prayers to God on behalf of the Israelite people that were fighting
- Therefore prayer and their energy, or faith and works on behalf of the people was Moses' strategy

- Notice in Exodus 17:11, when Moses held up his hands, Israel prevailed in battle, and when he let his hands down, the Amalekites prevailed
- So prayer gave power to Israel and weakened Amalek. What about you?
- There is very little in the text that says anything about Joshua's skills as a fighter or Israel's skills
- But Moses was making intercession to God for them while they were fighting,
Romans 8:26 The Holy Spirit does this for us!

- Church, God can strengthen your weaknesses
- Sometimes we need reminders of God's favor to us, see John the Baptist, Matthew 11:3-5 (blind, lame, lepers, deaf, dead, poor have the gospel preached)
- It must have been encouraging for the soldiers to see Moses holding the rod up high while they were fighting for their lives and his own
- Remember David's words in 1 Samuel 17:47 when as a boy he fought the Giant, Goliath: the battle you fight "is the Lord's" battle

- Though Moses prayed, the conflict lasted long; verse 12 says that his hands became heavy
- Even though Moses was a righteous man and a praying man, the battle might have been lost had not Aaron and Hur supported him
- These two men noticed his weariness, got a rock the Bible says for him to sit on and they personally held each arm up to steady the victory until the sun went down

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- Some members of the church are lost because of our lack of recognition
 - Some members of our church need the “sanctuary experience”
 - In Psalms 73 David says that he couldn’t understand why evil seemed to triumph and bad things happen to good people including himself

Psalms 73:13-17

“Surely in vain I have kept my heart pure and have washed my hands in innocence. All day long I have been afflicted, and every morning brings new punishments.

If I had spoken out like that, I would have betrayed your children.

When I tried to understand all this, it troubled me deeply

till I entered the sanctuary of God; then I understood their final destiny.

“The Sanctuary Experience”

- A place of meditation, prayer and thanksgiving
- A place to listen to God’s word discussed where the priest/leaders explained the scriptures to him
- A place of devotion and renewing of his spirit
- A place of congregational encouragement
- A place where he learned from people who had experienced similar circumstances and triumphed over them

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- There are times when “the strong become weary”
 - In a church family, the strengths of one can aid in the weaknesses of the other. One who is hopeful aids the one who is despondent
 - When a young sister helps the older sister, with ministry, that’s placing your spiritual hands beneath theirs (likewise with brothers)
 - When younger couples participate faithfully in church ministry, it invigorates the prolongation of the ministry

The Plan Of Salvation

Hear the Gospel

Acts 15:7

Believe the Gospel

Acts 15:7

Repent of Sins

Acts 17:30

Confess Christ

Acts 8:37

Be Baptized

Acts 8:38