

EXODUS: GOD'S WAY FORWARD

Praying Through

Exodus 17:8-13

⁸The Amalekites came and attacked the Israelites at Rephidim. ⁹Moses said to Joshua, "Choose some of our men and go out to fight the Amalekites. Tomorrow I will stand on top of the hill with the staff of God in my hands."

¹⁰So Joshua fought the Amalekites as Moses had ordered, and Moses, Aaron and Hur went to the top of the hill.

¹¹As long as Moses held up his hands, the Israelites were winning, but whenever he lowered his hands, the Amalekites were winning. ¹²When Moses' hands grew tired, they took a stone and put it under him and he sat on it. Aaron and Hur held his hands up—one on one side, one on the other—so that his hands remained steady till sunset.

¹³So Joshua overcame the Amalekite army with the sword.

Here's what we know . . .

- ▶ There's a spiritual battle all around us
- ▶ We are unequipped to win on our own
- ▶ The "Lord is our Banner"

¹⁵Moses built an altar and called it *The Lord is my Banner*. ¹⁶He said, "Because hands were lifted up against the throne of the Lord." (Exodus 17:15, 16a)

"The one concern of the devil is to keep Christians from praying. He fears nothing from prayerless studies, prayerless work and prayerless religion. He laughs at our toil, mocks at our wisdom, but trembles when we pray."
(Samuel Chadwick)

"When we rely on organization, we get what organization can do; when we rely on education, we get what education can do; when we rely on eloquence, we get what eloquence can do. But when we rely on prayer, we get what God can do." (A.C. Dixon)

¹⁶But Jesus often withdrew to lonely places and prayed. (Luke 5:16)

*¹⁸And pray in the Spirit on **all** occasions with **all** kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for **all** the Lord's people. (Ephesians 6:18)*

Here's what we can do . . .

1. Give God time
2. Stand on the merits of Christ's blood alone
3. Focus on the Spirit's help
4. Keep prayer God-centered rather than problem-centered
5. Pray in agreement with others

²⁴When they heard this, they raised their voices together in prayer to God.

³¹After they prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly. (Acts 4:24a, 31)