

How Do We Fight Our Battles?

Purpose: to encourage our church to recognise the battle the we are in, look to godly leaders for direction and to hold up the arms of our leaders through prayer.

How do we fight our battles?

I've heard many Christian songs that sing about "the battle". I'm sure that some of you will remember songs like "I'm on the battle field for my Lord". Or how about a more recent one: "This is how I fight my battles, This is how I fight my battles..."

But what kind of battles are we really talking about?

- Some battles are the results of my own sins or mistakes
- Some battles are the results of the sins or mistakes of others
- Some battles are from God – for three reasons:
 - God makes you fight to help you to grow/prepare you for service
 - God makes you battle for the sake of others
 - Ultimately we struggle, to bring glory to God

So far, the children of Israel have had a few problems in the wilderness. But now they are about to have their first "fight" in the wilderness:

Read Exodus 17:8-16

Israel is attacked by the Amalekites

Exo 17:8 *Now Amalek came and fought with Israel in Rephidim.*

We are told more about this attack in other parts of scripture:

Deu 25:17 *"Remember what Amalek did to you on the way as you were coming out of Egypt,*

Deu 25:18 *how he met you on the way and attacked your rear ranks, all the stragglers at your rear, when you were tired and weary; and he did not fear God.*

Why did the Amalekites want to fight them?

- Israel did not provoke them.
- Israel was tired and weary, making this a perfect time to attack them
- There was an old grudge between Esau (Amalek is a descendant of Esau) and Jacob?
- Perhaps they simply wanted to plunder them?
- Interesting that Israel quarrelled with Moses, and now God sends the Amalekites to quarrel with them.

Exo 17:9 *And Moses said to Joshua, "Choose us some men and go out, fight with Amalek. Tomorrow I will stand on the top of the hill with the rod of God in my hand."*

Moses said to Joshua - Moses put the right person in charge:

- This is the first mention of Joshua in the bible
- He was around 45 years old
- Moses knew that he was called for this task
- God is training him for his future service –he is being used now and will be greater used later

Choose us some men and go out – Joshua chose the right people for the battle

- Most of them had never fought before – they were former slaves
- Joshua was brave, and would chose the bravest of them to fight
- God will not give you what you cannot handle

...with the rod of God in my hand – the symbol of authority

- This would encourage them in battle
- God’s presence would be with them

7:11 *And so it was, when Moses held up his hand, that Israel prevailed; and when he let down his hand, Amalek prevailed.*

And so it was, when Moses held up his hand, that Israel prevailed -sanctification

...Moses held up his hand... – this was something that Moses had to do, but then God did what Moses could not do

- Israel prevailed:
- Israel is being encourage and faith is being generated
- This was a gesture of prayer!
- God is giving them victory, which is something that they could not do alone

...and when he let down his hand, Amalek prevailed.

- Amalek prevailed:
- Our enemies overcome when we lack faith
- We are defeated when our leaders do not pray
- Without God’s help, they were defeated

7:12 *But Moses' hands became heavy; so they took a stone and put it under him, and he sat on it. And Aaron and Hur supported his hands, one on one side, and the other on the other side; and his hands were steady until the going down of the sun.*

Moses' hands became heavy –

And hung down through weariness, holding up the rod first in one hand, and then in another, for so long a time; and thus sometimes, through infirmity, the best of men grow remiss in prayer, their hands are weak and hang flown through the corruptions of their hearts, the power of unbelief, the temptations of Satan, and want of immediate answers of prayer, or through long delays of it, and then the enemy gets an advantage over them:

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Moses became tired, because it was too much for him to hold up the rod for such a long time. He could not do it alone!

...so they took a stone and put it under him, and he sat on it. –

- Moses needed to be supported!

...And Aaron and Hur supported his hands –

- Our leaders need prayer as they pray for us
- We need our leaders to back each other
- We need all of our leaders to pray as the people of God battle
- Step outside of God's covering and protection, and our battles will be lost

So how do we fight our battles?

1. Recognise what kind of battle you are fighting
 - a. If it is because of sin/mistakes, repent, confess, and ask God to forgive you so that you can end it
 - b. If it is because of the sins/mistakes of others, ask God to direct you and deliver you
 - c. In all cases, God is using the situation to help you to become a mature Christian and reach others for His glory
2. Recognise that you have a real enemy
 - a. Your enemy will provoke you for no reason
 - b. You may be attacked when you are tired and weary
3. Look to your leaders to put the right people in the right places
 - a. You will not succeed if you are not in the right place
4. Hold up our arms!
 - a. I'm doing my best to remember you all in prayer
 - b. Pray for us as we pray for you, as we go through the wilderness together!