

Seeing Only Jesus

13) Praying in the Day of Adversity

'Now Amalek came and fought with Israel in Rephidim. 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." So Joshua did as Moses said to him, and fought with Amalek. And Moses, Aaron, and Hur went up to the top of the hill. And so it was, when Moses held up his hand, that Israel prevailed; and when he let down his hand, Amalek prevailed'

(Exodus 17:8-11)

- ✓ **Amalek was the grandson of Esau**
- ✓ **The Amalekites sought to block Israel's path to the Promised Land**
- ✓ **Prior to this they picked off the stragglers at the rear of Israel, when they were exhausted and weary (Deut.25:18)**
- ✓ **This is a picture of Satan's enmity against, and opposition to, the Church (Gen.3:15; Eph.6:11-12; 1 Pet.5:8; Rev.12:11)**

✓ **Spiritual warfare does not involve us getting the victory over Satan. Christ has already defeated Him at the cross. We are to appropriate that victory in our lives by faith**

✓ *'...this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith' (1 John 5:4). We are to 'Fight the good fight of faith' (1 Tim.6:12)*

✓ **The key to overcoming our enemy is simple: Faith in Christ. He causes us to triumph. He makes us more than conquerors. They overcame him by the blood of the Lamb. I can do all things through Christ. Be strong in the Lord. Put on the whole armour of God**

✓ **All these verses teach us, 1) that the victory is not something we achieve, but is given to us by God; 2) that it needs to be appropriated by faith**

✓ **In order to illustrate this, we see that Israel's victory against Amalek was not won on the battle field, but when Moses lifted his hands**

✓ **Lifting hands, in the Bible, is a symbol of prayer. *'Hear the voice of my supplications when I cry to you, when I lift my hands towards Your holy sanctuary' (Psa.28:2). 'I desire that men pray everywhere, lifting up holy hands' (1 Tim.2:8)***

'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. So Joshua defeated Amalek and his people with the edge of the sword'

(Exodus 17:12-13)

Aaron and Hur are not types of friends coming alongside us, holding us up in prayer

They are types of two divine intercessors...

...Jesus on one side, the Holy Spirit on the other

The Holy Spirit is our Intercessor on 'this side'

'Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered'
(Rom.8:26)

✓When it comes to prayer we sometimes have a 'weakness'. We don't know what we should pray for. Paul experienced this too

✓The immediate context of this passage is suffering

✓When we say 'I don't know' God says, 'the Holy Spirit'

✓In such times the Holy Spirit intercedes for us, because He knows the mind of God, *'Now He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He makes intercession for the saints according to the will of God'* (Rom.8:27)

✓ **It is an advocate's role to inform his clients what they ought to say, how they ought to present their case**

✓ **As Jesus taught the disciples how to pray, now the Holy Spirit helps us. 'Helps' i.e. to take hold of something, together with another. As in Luke 10:40**

✓ **First He brings back to our remembrance the things that the Lord has spoken in His Word**

✓ **But He also knows the mind (will) of God and teaches us to pray in accordance with it. This is praying 'in the Spirit'**

***'For what man knows the things of a man
except the spirit of the man which is in him?
Even so no one knows the things of God
except the Spirit of God. Now we have
received, not the spirit of the world, but the
Spirit who is from God, that we might know
the things that have been freely given to us
by God'***

(1 Cor.2:11-12)

✓ **There is a difference between praying *'with the Spirit'* and praying *'in the Spirit'***

✓ **Praying *in the Spirit* is to be led by the Spirit to pray in accordance with the will of God**

'Praying always with all prayer and supplication *in the Spirit...*' (Eph.6:18). 'But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith, praying *in the Holy Spirit'* (Jude 20)

✓ **Praying *with the spirit* is to pray in tongues, *'I will pray with the spirit, and I will also pray with the understanding. I will sing with the spirit, and I will also sing with the understanding'* (1 Cor.14:15)**

✓ *'Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. And if we know that He hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we have asked of Him' (1 John 5:14-15)*

✓ *And whatever you ask in My name, that I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If you ask anything in My name, I will do it' (John 14:13-14)*

✓ **Through the intercession of the Spirit, prayer is like an electric circuit. It starts with God and ends with Him. The result is that all things work together for good (Rom.8:28)**

Jesus is our heavenly Advocate

'Who is he who condemns? It is Christ who died, and furthermore is also risen, who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us'

(Rom.8:34)

1) He gives us direct access to the Father

*'... in whom we have boldness and access
with confidence through faith in Him'*

(Eph.3:12)

2) He sympathizes with us

'For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin'

(Heb.4:15)

3) He gives us boldness

'Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace...'

(Heb.4:16a)

The throne of judgment has become a throne of grace

**4) He gives mercy and grace according
to our needs**

***'...that we may obtain mercy and find grace
to help in time of need'***
(Heb.4:16b)

5) He intercedes for us

'Therefore He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them'
(Heb.7:25)

'Then the Lord said to Moses, "Write this for a memorial in the book and recount it in the hearing of Joshua, that I will utterly blot out the remembrance of Amalek from under heaven." And Moses built an altar and called its name, The-Lord-Is-My-Banner; for he said, "Because the Lord has sworn: the Lord will have war with Amalek from generation to generation"'

(Exodus 17:14-16)

Jehovah-Nissi - 'The Lord our Banner'

- ✓ **A banner was a standard or ensign used in battle. It was not always a flag. It could have been a bright shining ornament, as this would have glittered in the sun and easily be seen**
- ✓ **A banner was simply an ensign, or standard around which people rallied; a gathering point in the day of battle**
- ✓ **So, when Israel went to battle Moses lifted his hands to the Lord, because the Lord was their Banner. Therefore, when the victory was won, it was not Joshua but the Lord who was credited with the victory**

- ✓ **There is no doubt that there will be spiritual warfare in our lives. That is not the question. The question is what, or Who, will be our banner in the day of battle?**
- ✓ **Jesus is our banner, 'In that day there shall be a Root of Jesse, who shall stand as a banner to the people; for the Gentiles shall seek Him, and His resting place shall be glorious...He will set up a banner for the nations' (Isa.11:10-12)**