

(Exodus) Exodus 17:8-12

by J. Vernon McGee

The sermon emphasizes the importance of relying on the Holy Spirit to overcome the flesh and achieve spiritual victory.

Duration: 4:08

Scripture: Exodus 17:9, Exodus 17:11, Matthew 26:41, Romans 8:13, Galatians 5:17, Ephesians 6:18, 1 Thessalonians 5:17

Topics: "Expositional"

Description

In this sermon, the preacher focuses on the story of the battle between the Israelites and the Amalekites, which represents the conflict between the flesh and the spirit. The Amalekites, descendants of Esau, symbolize the flesh, and the Israelites, inexperienced in warfare, struggle to overcome them. The preacher emphasizes that victory over the flesh can only be achieved through the power of the Holy Spirit. The battle is ultimately won through the prayer and intercession of Moses, as he holds up his hands with the rod of God.

Transcript

Now, we come to another incident here in the seventeenth chapter, and it's another experience on this wilderness march that these people are taking, and it is their experience with Amalek, the Amalekites. And the Amalekites represent the flesh, and you're going to find where the victory was won. Now, will you notice verse 8, "...then came Amalek, and fought with Israel in Rephidim.

And Moses said unto Joshua, Choose us out men, and go out and fight with Amalek. Tomorrow I will stand on the top of the hill with the rod of God in mine hand." So Joshua did as Moses had said to him, and fought with Amalek. And Moses, Aaron, and Hur went up to the top of the hill.

Now, perhaps we should stop there at verse 10 for just a moment to notice several things that are quite unusual here. First of all, why we find that this man Amalek is a grandson of Esau, and that's the flesh, you'll recall. We saw that Esau represents that.

And the Amalekites became an enemy, enemy that never ceased to be an enemy of the children of Israel. And you find here that you can't overcome the flesh just by your own effort. And it's quite interesting to note that here, for the first time, the children of Israel engage in a warfare.

And that's the picture of the flesh warreth against the spirit, and the spirit warreth against the flesh, and these are contrary. Remember, that's what Paul wrote, and that is the picture here. That is a conflict that goes on.

And Israel now, for the first time, is engaged in a conflict. But they went to the top of the mountain, Moses, and Aaron, and Hur. Verse 11, It came to pass, when Moses held up his hand, that Israel prevailed.

When he let down his hand, Amalek prevailed. But Moses' hands were heavy. They took a stone, put it under him, and he sat thereon.

And Aaron and Hur stayed up his hands, the one on the one side and the other on the other side. And his hands were steady until the going down of the sun. Now, you'll note here that the battle actually was fought up on top of the mountain.

It was fought by prayer. It was fought by and won by Moses. It was not won by the fighting of these people.

They were not adept at warfare yet. They were not experienced soldiers, and they didn't do very well. The very minute that Moses' hands came down, and he wasn't able to hold them up, why, the children of Israel began to lose, and they would have lost.

And the important thing is that the Holy Spirit is the only one that can give us a victory over the flesh. The victory is only as the believer walks in the Spirit. When you and I act independently, why, Amalek, or the flesh gains an easy victory.

And we are apt, of course, to spare the flesh. Notice, though, what God has to say here, and it's a remarkable thing that He has to say. And when Moses' hands were held up, they won.

You and I will never be able to overcome the flesh. It's only the Spirit of God that can do that.

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