**Moses and His Faithful Friends - Following the Faith of God's Leader**

**Text - EXODUS 17:8-13**

**8**Then Amalek came and fought against Israel at Rephidim. **9**So Moses said to Joshua, “Choose men for us and go out, fight against Amalek. Tomorrow I will station myself on the top of the hill with the staff of God in my hand.” **10**Joshua did as Moses [[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=EXODUS+17%3A8-13&version=NASB#fen-NASB-1994a)]told him, [[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=EXODUS+17%3A8-13&version=NASB#fen-NASB-1994b)]and fought against Amalek; and Moses, Aaron, and Hur went up to the top of the hill. **11**So it came about when Moses held his hand up, that Israel prevailed, and when he let his hand [[c](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=EXODUS+17%3A8-13&version=NASB#fen-NASB-1995c)]down, Amalek prevailed. **12**But Moses’ hands were heavy. Then 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 one on the other. Thus his hands were steady until the sun set. **13**So Joshua [[d](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=EXODUS+17%3A8-13&version=NASB#fen-NASB-1997d)]overwhelmed Amalek and his people with the edge of the sword.

**Overview**

God's leaders who are serving from a pure heart and biblical foundation need the fellowship and support of their followers. When God's people work together and pray for God's blessing, God can and will do mighty works on their behalf.

**Lesson Goals**

At the conclusion of this lesson, students should:

1. Understand that both dependence on God and personal preparation are necessary.

2. Realize that God's people need to work together toward common goals.

3. Determine to do all in their power to assist and support their spiritual leaders.

**Teaching Outline**

**I. The Hope of Moses' Faith**

* A. The army was prepared.
* B. God showed His power.

**II. The Heaviness of Moses' Hands**

* A. When his hands were up, Israel prevailed.
* B. When his hands were down, Amalek prevailed.

**III. The Help of Moses' Friends**

* A. They set out for the top.
* B. They set out a stone.
* C. They stayed up his hands.
* D. They stayed until the battle was won.

**EPHESIANS 6:10--18 - 10**Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might. **11**Put on the full armor of God, so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil. **12**For our struggle is not against [[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=EPHESIANS+6%3A10--18&version=NASB#fen-NASB-29350a)]flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual *forces* of wickedness in the heavenly *places*. **13**Therefore, take up the full armor of God, so that you will be able to resist in the evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm. **14**Stand firm therefore, having girded your loins with truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, **15**and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace; **16**[[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=EPHESIANS+6%3A10--18&version=NASB#fen-NASB-29354b)]in addition to all, taking up the shield of faith with which you will be able to extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil *one*. **17**And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. **18**[[c](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=EPHESIANS+6%3A10--18&version=NASB#fen-NASB-29356c)]With all prayer and petition [[d](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=EPHESIANS+6%3A10--18&version=NASB#fen-NASB-29356d)]pray at all times in the Spirit, and with this in view, [[e](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=EPHESIANS+6%3A10--18&version=NASB#fen-NASB-29356e)]be on the alert with all perseverance and petition for all the saints,

**2 TIMOTHY 2:3-4 - 3**Suffer hardship with *me*, as a good soldier of Christ Jesus. **4**No soldier in active service entangles himself in the affairs of everyday life, so that he may please the one who enlisted him as a soldier.

**The statistics, however, show us that fewer men are choosing to fight in the battle.**

* + This Sunday almost 25 percent of married women will attend church without their husbands.
  + The typical American church draws an adult crowd that's 61 percent female, 39 percent male. This gender gap shows up in all age categories.
  + Over 70 percent of the boys who are being raised in church will abandon it during their teens and twenties. Many of these boys will never return.
  + More than 90 percent of American men believe in God, and five out of six call themselves Christians. But only **one** out of six attend church on any given Sunday. The average man accepts the reality of Jesus Christ, but fails to see any value in going to church.

**Statistics also show us why church is good for men.**

* + Churchgoers are more likely to be married and express a higher level of satisfaction with life. Church involvement is the most important predictor of marital stability and happiness.
  + Church involvement moves people out of poverty. It's also correlated with less depression, more self-esteem and greater family and marital happiness.
  + Religious participation leads men to become more engaged husbands and fathers.
  + Teens with religious fathers are more likely to say they enjoy spending time with their dad and that they admire him.

In today's story, the men were willing to fight. These chosen men counted it an honor to go into battle for their nation and their God.

**ZECHARIAH 4:6 - 6**Then he [[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=ZECHARIAH+4%3A6&version=NASB#fen-NASB-22929a)]said to me, “This is the word of the Lord to Zerubbabel saying, ‘Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit,’ says the Lord of hosts.

**MATTHEW 11:28--30 - 8**“Come to Me, all [[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=MATTHEW+11%3A28--30&version=NASB#fen-NASB-23488a)]who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest. **29**Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. **30**For My yoke is [[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=MATTHEW+11%3A28--30&version=NASB#fen-NASB-23490b)]easy and My burden is light.”

**1 Kings 19:4 -** But he himself went a day's journey into the wilderness, and came and sat down under a juniper tree: and he requested for himself that he might die; and said, It is enough; now, 0 LORD, take away my life; for I am not better than my fathers

**ISAIAH 40:28-31**

Do you not know? Have you not heard?

The Everlasting God, the Lord, the Creator of the ends of the earth

Does not become weary or tired.

His understanding is inscrutable.

**29**He gives strength to the weary,

And to *him who* lacks might He increases power.

**30**Though youths grow weary and tired,

And vigorous young men stumble badly,

**31**Yet those who [[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=ISAIAH+40%3A28-31&version=NASB#fen-NASB-18452a)]wait for the Lord

Will gain new strength;

They will [[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=ISAIAH+40%3A28-31&version=NASB#fen-NASB-18452b)]mount up *with* [[c](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=ISAIAH+40%3A28-31&version=NASB#fen-NASB-18452c)]wings like eagles,

They will run and not get tired,

They will walk and not become weary.

**Philippians 3:13 -** Brethren, I do not regard myself as having laid hold of *it* yet; but one thing *I do*: forgetting what *lies* behind and reaching forward to what *lies* ahead,

**1 Thessalonians 5:12-13 - 12**But we request of you, brethren, that you [[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1+THESSALONIANs+5%3A12-13&version=NASB#fen-NASB-29634a)]appreciate those who diligently labor among you, and have charge over you in the Lord and give you [[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1+THESSALONIANs+5%3A12-13&version=NASB#fen-NASB-29634b)]instruction, **13**and that you esteem them very highly in love because of their work. Live in peace with one another.

**Hebrews 13:7, 17 - 7**Remember those who led you, who spoke the word of God to you; and considering the [[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=HEBREWS+13%3A7%2C+17&version=NASB#fen-NASB-30249a)]result of their conduct, imitate their faith.

**17**Obey your leaders and submit *to them*, for they keep watch over your souls as those who will give an account. [[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=HEBREWS+13%3A17&version=NASB#fen-NASB-30259a)]Let them do this with joy and not [[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=HEBREWS+13%3A17&version=NASB#fen-NASB-30259b)]with grief, for this would be unprofitable for you.

**1 CORINTHIANS 12:18, 27-28** - **18**But now God has placed the members, each one of them, in the body, just as He desired.

**27**Now you are Christ’s body, and individually members of it. **28**And God has [[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1+CORINTHIANS+12%3A27--28&version=NASB#fen-NASB-28663a)]appointed in the church, first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then [[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1+CORINTHIANS+12%3A27--28&version=NASB#fen-NASB-28663b)]miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, administrations, *various* kinds of tongues.

**Memory Verse**

*But now God has placed the members, each one of them, in the body, just as He desired.* (Corinthians 12:18)

**Study Questions**

1. What was Moses' role in the battle with the Amalekites?

2. Who went with Moses to the top of the hill?

3. How did the position of Moses' hands determine the course of the battle?

4. How did Aaron and Hur contribute to the victory of Israel over Amalek?

5. 'Tell about an incident in your life when you knew beyond a doubt that God was empowering you.

6. Tell about a time in your life when you were discouraged and you found encouragement in the Word of God. What verse or verses helped you during this time?

7. Tell about a time when a friend or friends supported you and what the support meant to you.

8. What are some things we can spiritual leaders?