



Grace Assembly Of God

CHAPTER-BY-CHAPTER BIBLE READING DEVOTIONAL

Scripture: Exodus 17

Title: The Battle Is Spiritual

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Summary of Chapter:

There are two parts to this chapter. In the first part we read about the Israelites' complaints (a common theme in this Book) to Moses about the lack of water and of the Lord's faithfulness, in supplying them with water after Moses struck the rock at Mount Heron as instructed by the Lord. In the second part we read about Joshua's battle with the Amalekites and how the Lord gave him victory over the Amalekites.

Key Verse(s): NLT

How does it speak to me?

¹¹ As long as Moses held up the staff in his hand, the Israelites had the advantage. But whenever he dropped his hand, the Amalekites gained the advantage. ¹² Moses' arms soon became so tired he could no longer hold them up. So Aaron and Hur found a stone for him to sit on. Then they stood on each side of Moses, holding up his hands. So his hands held steady until sunset. ¹³ As a result, Joshua overwhelmed the army of Amalek in battle.

In these verses we read about two battles that were being fought at the same time. One was the physical battle that Joshua was engaged in. The second battle, the battle in which Moses raised his hands to the Lord and interceded on behalf of the Israelites before the Lord, the spiritual battle, was the more important battle. As long as Moses hands were kept up the Israelites kept winning. This is the key take away for me.

What happens in the spiritual realm is more important than the physical battles we face. The passage makes it clear that it was intercessory prayer that caused the battle to be won. This means that we need to have our support systems in place. We need to be in cell groups and have consistency in our family altars to ensure that we have this type of intercessory support prayer. We are not meant to go it alone.

I have seen the strength of this form of intercessory prayer in my own life. I had just come to know the Lord, at the time when I went off to study in the UK. During my exams, the one thing that made it easier for me to get through was the fact that I knew my mother would be praying me through. If my papers were three hours long, she would pray for at least three and a half hours, starting before my papers even started. As a result I was calm and I could feel the Lord's presence guiding me through the papers. I believe that this form of intercessory prayer caused me to finish at the top end of my class.

Let's not forget the strength of our collective prayers which have a decisive influence over our physical battles and let us keep our eyes on the Lord who is "able to do far more than we could ever ask for or imagine (Eph. 3:20)."

APPLICATION REFLECTIONS

Adult:

Is your attention focused on your problems and difficulties? How do you think getting together with others in prayer will help you?

Youth:

Can you remember the times in your lives that this form of prayer got you through? List out the instances and be amazed at His faithfulness.

Child:

Share a time when you experienced a big problem in life. Pray to make your problems smaller today as we remember how big our God is.

PRAYER

Praying Scripture:

Father, thank You for teaching us that our prayers have great impact. Today we pray that the needs of all listening in be met and that Your peace guard our hearts and minds. Thank You for Your presence in our midst.

Thanksgiving Prayer:

I/We thank you for _____ (e.g. delicious food we ate, places we went, prayer that was answered, etc)

Intercessory Prayer:

I/We want to pray for _____ (e.g. healing of sickness, family members, work or study, leaders, nation, etc)

Salvation Prayer:

I/We pray for the salvation of my/our unsaved loved ones _____ (add one name per day). In Jesus' Name I/we pray. Amen.