

New Hope Community Church
Morning Worship - Sunday March 27, 2022

Four Keys to Victory Over Sin and Satan Exodus 17:8-16

¹¹ Now all these things happened to them as examples, and they were written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the ages have come. 1 Corinthians 10:11 (NKJV)

Israel's physical battles are examples for our spiritual battles –

1. Realize how constantly you are dependent upon God's empowering –

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." ¹⁰ 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. ¹¹ And so it was, when Moses held up his hand, that Israel prevailed; and when he let down his hand, Amalek prevailed. Exodus 17:9–11 (NKJV)

Note what is Happening -

- 1. They are fighting with Amalek, a real war.*
- 2. Moses is on top of a hill with **the rod of God in my (his) hand.**"*
- 3. Rod of God up – Israel prevailed / Rod of God down – Amalek prevailed*

What does this mean?

When the rod of God is up, their connection to God and His power is established, and so because God was with them, they win!

Holding the rod up was the same as waiting upon God, leaning on His strength, depending on His power –

³¹ But those who wait on the LORD shall renew *their* strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint. Isaiah 40:31 (NKJV)

Holding up the rod of God was the same for the Israelites in the battle against the Amalekites as praying without ceasing, or being strong in the Lord is for us in our battle with sin and Satan –

¹⁷ pray without ceasing, 1 Thessalonians 5:17 (NKJV)

¹⁰ Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. ¹¹ Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. ¹² For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual *hosts* of wickedness in the heavenly *places*. Ephesians 6:10–12 (NKJV)

David is strong and victorious if he is praying and depending on God, defeating Goliath and the Philistines and yet when he gets self-confident and prays less, he falls into sin with Bathsheba!

Hezekiah is great in prayer when Judah is surrounded by the Assyrian army or when he is deathly ill, but he fell when everything was going well for him!

God tells us, through the Apostle Paul -

¹² Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall. 1 Corinthians 10:12 (NKJV)

Jesus tells us –

⁵ “I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing. John 15:5 (NKJV)

II. Realize that you need a little help from your friends –

(or there is no such thing, apart from Christ Himself, as a spiritual superman)

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. ¹³ So Joshua defeated Amalek and his people with the edge of the sword. Exodus 17:12–13 (NKJV)

1. *If there were such a spiritual superman, Moses would seem to be it ... bringing the plagues upon Egypt, parting the Red Sea, with a stick?*

2. *Yet, here Moses experiences normal human weakness and needs help from his friends!*

3. *This is not the only place Moses needed human help, he was not Charlton Heston -*

¹⁰ Then Moses said to the LORD, “O my Lord, I am not eloquent, neither before nor since You have spoken to Your servant; but I am slow of speech and slow of tongue.” ¹¹ So the LORD said to him, “Who has made man’s mouth? Or who makes the mute, the deaf, the seeing, or the blind? Have not I, the LORD? ¹² Now therefore, go, and I will be with your mouth and teach you what you shall say.” ¹³ But he said, “O my Lord, please send by the hand of whomever else You may send.” ¹⁴ So the anger of the LORD was kindled against Moses, and He said: “Is not Aaron the Levite your brother? I know that he can speak well. And look, he is also coming out to meet you. When he sees you, he will be glad in his heart. ¹⁵ Now you shall speak to him and put the words in his mouth. And I will be with your mouth and with his mouth, and I will teach you what you shall do. ¹⁶ So he shall be your spokesman to the people. And he himself shall be as a mouth for you, and you shall be to him as God. ¹⁷ And you shall take this rod in your hand, with which you shall do the signs.” Exodus 4:10–17 (NKJV)

4. *The church is so put together that we are dependent upon each other –*

¹¹ And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, ¹² for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, Ephesians 4:11–12 (NKJV)

²⁰ But now indeed *there are* many members, yet one body. ²¹ And the eye cannot say to the hand, “I have no need of you”; nor again the head to the feet, “I have no need of you.” 1 Corinthians 12:20–21 (NKJV)

²⁷ Now you are the body of Christ, and members individually. 1 Corinthians 12:27 (NKJV)

III. *Realize how whole-heartedly and intimately God is involved with you in your struggle –*

¹⁴ 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.”

¹⁵ And Moses built an altar and called its name, The-LORD-Is-My-Banner; ¹⁶ for he said, “Because the LORD has sworn: the LORD will have war with Amalek from generation to generation.”

Exodus 17:14–16 (NKJV)

1. *What we see here is God taking Israel's side –*
2. *What we see here is God's involvement with Israel's problem, remember Amalek attacked them –*

⁸ Now Amalek came and fought with Israel in Rephidim. Exodus 17:8 (NKJV)

3. *In fact, Amalek attacked them in a nasty way –*

¹⁷ “Remember what Amalek did to you on the way as you were coming out of Egypt, 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. Deuteronomy 25:17–18 (NKJV)

4. *God is so involved with Israel, and promises such in the future to the point that Moses claims, God is their banner –*

¹⁴ 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.”

¹⁵ And Moses built an altar and called its name, The-LORD-Is-My-Banner; ¹⁶ for he said, “Because the LORD has sworn: the LORD will have war with Amalek from generation to generation.”

Exodus 17:14–16 (NKJV)

5. *Yet, God is even more intimately involved with our battle, Christ dies in it, for us –*

¹⁴ Inasmuch then as the children have partaken of flesh and blood, He Himself likewise shared in the same, that through death He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil, Hebrews 2:14 (NKJV)

⁵ Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, ⁶ who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, ⁷ but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. ⁸ And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross. Philippians 2:5–8 (NKJV)

²¹ For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him. 2 Corinthians 5:21 (NKJV)

IV. *Realize, if God is with you, no one can be against you –*

¹³ So Joshua defeated Amalek and his people with the edge of the sword. Exodus 17:13 (NKJV)

³¹ What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? Romans 8:31 (NKJV)

⁵⁵ “O Death, where is your sting? O Hades, where is your victory?”

⁵⁶ The sting of death is sin, and the strength of sin is the law. ⁵⁷ But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. 1 Corinthians 15:55–57 (NKJV)