

“The Lord is My Banner”

Names of God Study 4

Introduction

In ancient times, an army would march into battle with a banner in front of them – a long pole with an emblem that would clearly announce to their enemy just who exactly they were fighting for. After the battle between the Israelites and the Amalekites, Moses declared that the Lord Himself was their banner. Where do we fight our battles today as Christians and how obvious should our banner be displayed to the world?

Exodus 17:8-15

8 The Amalekites came and attacked the Israelites at Rephidim. 9 Moses said to Joshua, "Choose some of our men and go out to fight the Amalekites. Tomorrow I will stand on top of the hill with the staff of God in my hands." 10 So Joshua fought the Amalekites as Moses had ordered, and Moses, Aaron and Hur went to the top of the hill. 11 As long as Moses held up his hands, the Israelites were winning, but whenever he lowered his hands, the Amalekites were winning. 12 When Moses' hands grew tired, they took a stone and put it under him and he sat on it. Aaron and Hur held his hands up-one on one side, one on the other-so that his hands remained steady till sunset. 13 So Joshua overcame the Amalekite army with the sword. 14 Then the LORD said to Moses, "Write this on a scroll as something to be remembered and make sure that Joshua hears it, because I will completely blot out the memory of Amalek from under heaven." 15 Moses built an altar and called it The LORD is my Banner.

Matthew 6:1-8

1"Be careful not to do your 'acts of righteousness' before men, to be seen by them. If you do, you will have no reward from your Father in heaven. 2"So when you give to the needy, do not announce it with trumpets, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and on the streets, to be honored by men. I tell you the truth, they have received their reward in full. 3But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, 4so that your giving may be in secret. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you. 5"And when you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners to be seen by men. I tell you the truth, they have received their reward in full. 6But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you. 7And when you pray, do not keep on babbling like pagans, for they think they will be heard because of their many words. 8Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him.

Song of Solomon 2:4

“He has taken me to the banquet hall, and his banner over me is love.”

Questions

1. What is the significance of Moses holding up his hands and having them supported in his tiredness order to win the battle (Ex. 7:11-12)?
2. Compare the passages in Exodus and Matthew. How can we reconcile the boldness of proclaiming “The Lord is My Banner” with Jesus’ “behind-the-scenes” approach to service?
3. Discuss the types of warfare you fight today and how knowing God as your Banner has strengthened you.
4. Describe how the statement in Song of Solomon 2:4 has been experienced in your life.

Discussion Guidelines:

1. Allow everyone a chance to speak. If you are bursting with ideas and tend to share a lot – great – but occasionally pause a bit before you go, sometimes the quieter ones are just waiting for their chance and they need a little space before they go.
2. Respect the opinions of others, and refrain from giving advice.
3. Keep discussion focused on the material being studied.
4. Maintain the confidentiality of personal things shared within the group.