

## Do You Have Spiritual Partners?

### Word

#### Scripture Reference

Exodus 17:8-16

#### Discussion Questions:

1. Share about an individual whom you consider as your spiritual partner and how you are helping each other in your spiritual walk.
2. After 400 years of slavery, God brought the Israelites out of Egypt. At the time, the Israelites witnessed God's deliverance and salvation, but beginning in Exodus 17, they are now expected to take an active part in what God wants to do with their life. After you have received salvation in Jesus Christ, you are no longer a spectator. You are to actively exercise and fulfill God's purposes for you as a believer, which is mainly to do good works. We do so not on our own, but in the context of a community where we can help one another. When was a time that God used your good work to be a testimony of your faith in Him?
3. **We need spiritual partners in perceiving God's presence** (v. 8-10). The Amalekites were distant cousins to the Israelites, but instead of extending assistance, the Amalekites ambushed the Israelites. The Israelites were not skilled fighters, yet Moses and Joshua took the courage to fight against the Amalekites. And Moses said that he will go on top of the hill with the rod (staff) of God in his hand. In many previous instances, this same staff was used to display God's hand at work. The staff didn't have any power, but it was instead a symbol of God's power and protection on them. Moses was reminding the Israelites that God's presence is with them even in the midst of uncertainty. When was a time that God allowed a doubtful moment in your life? Who pointed you back to God? How can we be reminded of God's presence when things don't seem to go very well?
4. **We need spiritual partners in praying for God's will** (v. 11-13). As the Israelites fought against the Amalekites, when Moses' staff up was held up, they Israelites won, but when the staff was let down, the Amalekites prevailed. In biblical Israel, hands lifted high was the posture for prayer. Thus, when Moses help up his hands, the people understood that he was praying on their behalf. When we pray, we demonstrate complete

dependence on God and calls on the faithfulness of God. Prayer is not a means to get our blessings from God; rather it is seeking and aligning to God's will, because God's answers to our lives are most important. How is your prayer life? How have you been praying for others? What are some aspects in your life that you realized God was working through the prayer of others? Is there any matter at this time for which you are seeking God's will that we can also pray with you about?

5. **We need spiritual partners in proclaiming God's word** (v. 17:14-16). When the Israelites gained over the Amalekites, God told Moses to write down this event. This was the first time God commanded Moses to put something on record through writing. This is to ensure that the Israelites will be reminded of what God had done, as well as a testament that God fights for His people. What portion of Scripture do you often go to when you need encouragement or reminder about who God is and what He has done? How often to do you seek God's reminders?

### Walk

Moses, with Aaron and Hur beside him to lift up his hands when he grew tired, became the prayer support of the Israelites as Joshua led them to battle the Amalekites, as well as Aaron and Hur, worked together as they battle the Amalekites. Though the Israelites seemed to have no hope, they fought together while trusting God throughout the battle. As Moses lifted up his arms in prayer, he reminded the Israelites of God's presence with them, showing them that God was looking after them and allowing them to fully depend on God. At the end, Moses wrote this incident as a memorial to recount the work of God. How about you? Who are the people that God is using to remind you of His presence in your life? Are you being a reminder of God's power in someone else's life? Do you have a prayer partner who equally seeks God's will in all aspects of your life? How has God been speaking to you lately through His word?

### Worship & Prayer

*Dear Lord, thank You for the reminder that living the Christian life is not a one-man journey. Forgive me for the times when I do things on my own, thinking I can survive by myself. Thank You for the privilege of being able to partner with other believers who are able to watch my back. I pray that my relationship with fellow believers will help me to continually be sensitive to Your work and purposes for me as I recognize your presence in all that I do. I pray that it will constantly help me to grow in my prayer life so that I may submit my will to Yours, and that it will continue to encourage me to immerse myself in Your words and be reminded of who You are and what You have done in my life. In Jesus' name I pray, Amen.*