

Finishing Well

Lesson #38 Utterly Destroy The Enemy Within Nov. 16, 2022

A general was explaining his strategy for capturing a strong enemy city.

"I have four columns approaching the city. I have a column approaching from the north, a column from the south, a column from the east, and one from the west. But my most valuable column is my fifth column." When asked where the fifth column was, the general replied, "My fifth column is inside the city." The general had people inside the city who were loyal to him. He counted on them to open the gates and deliver the city to him.

- A "fifth column" is a group which operates in secret, usually within enemy lines, in order to help further a cause which they secretly support.

When things go wrong, religious people usually blame unseen demons around them. Little do we know that Satan isn't our only enemy. Satan has a "fifth column" inside of us that cooperates with him in his battle against us. What is Satan's "fifth column"?

- *It Is My Sinful Nature That Dwells In My Body.*

It is out of control, self-indulgent, fat, lazy, evil and full of pride.

Gal. 5:17 For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh:

and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would.

John Owen "Indwelling sin [the flesh] in the believer is the old man who must be killed, with all his faculties, properties, wisdom, craft, subtlety, and strength.

Its power, life, vigor, and strength must be destroyed and slain by the cross of Christ."

If the devil never darkened your door, you could still be destroyed for lack of knowledge because the flesh could overtake you. [Rev. 20:1-3; 7-9; Jeremiah 17:9]

Biblical Pictures Of The Conflict Of Our 2 Natures - The Flesh Versus The Spirit.

Problem: Ruled by the inner man - the flesh - the sin nature > Who is Amalek?

1. Grandson of Esau who had a positional standing as the firstborn with an inheritance

- Ruler of the household under and for the father
- Priest of the family
- Double portion of the father's estate

2. A positional standing as the firstborn > no guarantees > could forfeit his firstborn position

- Esau despised his birthright [LXX] = thought it of no real value = paltry, a mere trifle
- A single meal for fleshly [temporary] satisfaction

Esau = type of the old, carnal nature > more interested in self than the spiritual

Inherited sin nature from Adam

Recall: Passage through the Red Sea introduced Israelites to the WILDERNESS

After crossing the Red Sea, the Israelites were Tested By God 3 times in order to:

Develop & Stretch Their Faith. Twice they needed water and once they had no food.

Ex. 15:22-27 Then Moses led Israel from the Red Sea, and they went out into the wilderness of Shur; and they went three days in the wilderness and found no water. ²³ When they came to Marah, they could not drink the waters of Marah, because they were bitter; for that reason it was named Marah. ²⁴ So the people grumbled at Moses, saying, "What are we to drink?" ²⁵ Then he cried out to the LORD, and the LORD showed him a tree; and he threw it into the waters, and the waters became sweet. There He made for them a statute and regulation, and there He tested them. ²⁶ And He said, "If you will listen carefully to the voice of the LORD your God, and do what is right in His sight, and listen to His commandments, and keep all His statutes, I will put none of the diseases on you which I have put on the Egyptians; for I, the LORD, am your healer." Then they came to Elim where there were twelve springs of water and seventy date palms, and they camped there beside the waters.

Ex. 16:1-13 Then they set out from Elim, and all the congregation of the sons of Israel came to the wilderness of Sin, which is between Elim and Sinai, on the fifteenth day of the second month after their departure from the land of Egypt. ² But the whole congregation of the sons of Israel grumbled against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness. ³ The sons of Israel said to them, "If only we had died by the LORD's hand in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the pots of meat, when we ate bread until we were full; for you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this entire assembly with hunger!" ⁴ Then the LORD said to Moses, "Behold, I will rain bread from heaven for you; and the people shall go out and gather a day's portion every day, so that I may: Test Them, Whether Or Not They Will Walk In My Instruction.

- God wants them to know it is the LORD that brought them out of Egypt.
- God wants to reveal His glory to them.

⁹ Then Moses said to Aaron, "Say to all the congregation of the sons of Israel, 'Come forward before the LORD, for He has heard your grumbings.'" ¹⁰ And it came about, as Aaron spoke to the entire congregation of the sons of Israel, that they looked toward the wilderness, and behold, the glory of the LORD appeared in the cloud. ¹¹ And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, ¹² "I have heard the grumbings of the sons of Israel; speak to them, saying, At twilight you shall eat meat, and in the morning you shall be filled with bread; and You Shall Know That I Am The LORD Your God." ¹³ So it came about at evening that the quails came up and covered the camp, and in the morning the dew lay round about the host.

Ex. 17:1-7 Then all the congregation of the sons of Israel journeyed by stages from the wilderness of Sin, according to the command of the LORD, and camped at Rephidim, and there was no water for the people to drink. ² So the people quarreled with Moses and said, "Give us water so that we may drink!" And Moses said to them, "Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the LORD?" ³ But the people were thirsty for water there; and they grumbled against Moses and said, "Why is it that you have you brought us up from Egypt, to kill us and our children and our livestock with thirst?"

⁴ So Moses cried out to the LORD, saying, "What am I to do with this people? A little more and they will stone me!" ⁵ Then the LORD said to Moses, "Pass before the people and take with you some of the elders of Israel; and take in your hand your staff with which you struck the Nile and go. ⁶ Behold, I will stand before you there on the rock at Horeb; and you shall strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink." And Moses did so in the sight of the elders of Israel. ⁷ Then he named the place Massah and Meribah because of the quarrel of the sons of Israel, and because they tested the LORD, saying, "Is the LORD among us, or not?"

Each time God, using Moses as His instrument, performed a miracle and supernaturally provided food and water for them. However, Israel failed these initial tests. Each time they mumbled, groaned, grumbled, and griped against God and Moses, Refusing To Operate On Faith in the living God. However, because Israel was an infant nation, new to the faith, God was very patient and longsuffering with His people.

He was testing them NOW to prepare them for Canaan where big wars, enemies and giants awaited them. Future victory would be theirs ONLY if they knew how to believe God and trust Him for the victory. It was necessary to fight several small wars in preparation for the big ones. The war with Amalek was a minor skirmish designed to "battle-toughen" Israel to take the land of Canaan when the time came.

Spiritual truth: Before we can kill spiritual giants, we must learn to kill spiritual pygmies.

Amalek's First Attack On Israel: Exodus 17:8-16

Ex. 17:8 THEN CAME AMALEK, and FOUGHT with Israel in REPHIDIM.

Background Info: 1. The Israelites had received the manna and living water from the rock.

2. Israel had just been released from years of bondage.

They were not familiar with war and weapons. They were no match for Amalek.

3. Rephidim = refreshments - The attack from the Amalekites came when Israel was in a Time Of Refreshment and enjoying the "living water" from the Rock.

4. It was a Surprise Attack and came when it was Least Expected.

Deut. 25:17-18 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.

1. Amalek's first attack was after Israel had been delivered from Egypt [sin].

➤ No mention of Amalek while Israel was in bondage in Egypt.

2. Amalek was the first nation to attack Israel as they began their journey.

➤ Hurried over hundreds of miles to intercept Israel's march.

Amalek's Goal: Prevent Israel making progress to Canaan [Promised Land; Inheritance]

Character: Amalek means "warlike." They were not noble warriors - never fought a fair fight.

Associated with cruelty and cowardice- a "people that lick up." Abuse the helpless

➤ Like a robber he waylaid Israel

Like a swarm of locusts

Subtle & cowardly

➤ Like a leech eager for blood

Like a fly looking for sores to feed on

Amalek's Strategy

- They attacked the feeble and weak; those too weak to keep pace in the desert.
- Attacked the stragglers - ill and young
- He laid in wait for him in the way when he came up from Egypt. [I Sam. 15:2]
- The hindmost of the host became his prey.
- Those who were furthest away from their leaders.

When other nations hesitated to harm God's chosen ones, his evil example induced them to join him in the battle.

Remember: Amalek is a picture of the flesh seeking AT ALL COSTS to Bar The Onward Journey of God's redeemed people, through the wilderness and into the land of Promise.

- The FLESH is the leading enemy frustrating us from going on with the Lord.

Consider: After we are born again and filled with the Spirit and have the new nature of Jesus Christ, God does not intend for us to be justified and stop in our tracks.

It was NOT God's purpose for His people to remain at the place where the rock was smitten.

Deut. 1:6-8 The LORD our God spake unto us in Horeb, saying, You have dwelt long enough in this mount: Turn, take your journey, and GO... Behold, I have set the land before you:

go in and possess the land.

Key Point: God will bring small "tests" into our lives to see if we truly mean our commitment to Him. Also, He desires to show us how He works in our lives, strengthen our faith and reveal to us that we can absolutely trust Him.

Insert examples from Laura's life.

Consider: After we are born again and filled with the Spirit and have the new nature of Jesus Christ, we begin as new babes in Christ, to read our Bible, pray and start growing.

The Word Of God and the power of The Holy Spirit work in us to transform us into the image of Jesus Christ.

There is IMMEDIATE resistance from the FLESH. Attacks & war commence!

Gal. 5:17a For the flesh lusts [wars] against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh.

Our spiritual struggle with the sin nature, inherited from Adam, is an ugly monster on the inside which despises the things of God and wants to sin by pleasing self.

Truth: Your flesh contests every attempt of the Spirit of God to lead you on into spiritual maturity. Standing across your pathway of spiritual growth is AMALEK! [Your flesh]

When the Holy Spirit makes gains over sin in our lives, the sin nature puts up a fierce struggle to take that territory back. It often attacks us from the rear in a surprise attack.

Just when we think we have lust, temper, laziness, pride, or any other sin licked, it raises its ugly head in our lives, and we realize again we are in a struggle with sin until we die.

As immature believers, we are no match for the vicious attacks of the flesh.

We are to have "no confidence in it," make "no provision" for it,

"do not yield our members to its service."

- Key Points: 1. Our flesh is warlike. It lusts or wars against our spirit after we are born again.
2. Our flesh was not a problem before we were redeemed because IT WAS BOSS.
3. Our flesh is a hindrance to a successful Christian walk and growth in Christ.

II Pet. 1:4 Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be Partakers Of The Divine Nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.

Commands: Eph. 4:22, 25-29, 31 That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts; Wherefore putting away lying, speak every man truth with his neighbor: for we are members one of another. Be ye angry, and sin not: let not the sun go down upon your wrath: Neither give place to the devil. Let him that stole steal no more: but rather let him labor, working with his hands the thing which is good, that he may have to give to him that needeth. Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers. Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamor, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice:

ISRAEL'S COUNTERATTACK AGAINST AMALEK - Exodus 17:9-11

God's Provision to Fight Amalek: Ex. 17:9-12 The respective actions of Moses and Joshua reveal the provisions God made for them and for us to combat the flesh.

Ex. 17:9-10 And Moses said unto Joshua, Choose men for us, go out, fight with Amalek: tomorrow I will stand on the top of the hill with the rod of God in mine hand.

So Joshua did as Moses had said to him, and fought with Amalek; and Moses, Aaron and Hur went up to the top of the hill.

Exodus 17:11-13 And it came to pass, when Moses held up his hand, that Israel prevailed: and when he let down his hand, Amalek prevailed.

¹² But Moses hands were heavy; and they took a stone, and put it under him, and he sat thereon; and Aaron and Hur stayed up his hands, the one on the one side, and the other on the other side; and his hands were steady until the going down of the sun.

¹³ And Joshua defeated [discomfited] Amalek and his people with the edge of the sword.

Discomfited = overwhelmed; to knock down and stand on; complete victory at that moment

1. Israel's success against Amalek was determined by the uplifted hands [symbolic of prayer] of Moses and the rod of God's power.

Ps. 28:2 Hear the voice of my supplications when I cry to You,
When I lift up my hands toward Your holy sanctuary.

I Tim. 2:8 I will therefore pray everywhere, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and doubting.

2. Moses' hands grew heavy. When his arms dropped, Amalek prevailed in the valley.

3. Spiritual warfare: When we fail in prayer, the flesh prevails.

Luke 18:1 "Men ought always to pray and not to faint."

4. Moses was not left to himself in this life and death struggle. Aaron and Hur supported him, they held up his hands. Moses could never have continued without this support.

Ex. 17:12a And Moses' hands were heavy. So they took a rock [stone], and put it under him, and he sat thereon;

Consider: Just as Moses rested on the rock, we are to rest on the Rock, Jesus Christ, in the battle with our sin nature.

Ps. 62:1-2 Truly my soul waits upon God: from Him cometh my salvation.

He only is my rock and my salvation; He is my defense; I shall not be greatly moved.

Ex. 17:12b and Aaron and Hur stayed up his hands, the one on the one side, and the other on the other side; and his hands were steady until the going down of the sun.

Insert More Of Laura

No Christian will ever have any victory over the sin nature until he is committed to be obedient and to fight the sin nature Biblically. Sometimes the battle with our flesh is so strong it looks like we will lose the battle completely.

We seesaw between victory and defeat, but God gives us the victory as we trust Him.

We are not left to drink from the puddle of our own resources.

We tap into God's immeasurable reservoir of wisdom and strength.

God's Provision for the believer to fight the flesh

1. We have an advocate within and above.

- Aaron was the head of Israel's priesthood as a type of our great High Priest, Jesus Christ, who intercedes for us.

Heb. 7:25 Therefore He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them.

- Hur means "light" or "illumine" which is a type of the Holy Spirit who helps us with our infirmities.

Rom. 8:26 Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.

A.W. Tozer "The cross is the symbol of death. It stands for the abrupt, violent end of the human being. The man in Roman times who took up his cross and started down the road had already said goodbye to his friends. He was not coming back. He was not going out to have his life redirected. He was going out to have it ended. The cross made no compromise, modified nothing, spared nothing. It slew all of the man completely and for good. It did not try to keep on good terms with its victim. It struck swift and hard and when it had finished its work the man was no more. In coming to Christ, we do not bring our life up on to a higher plane.

We leave it at a cross. The grain of wheat must fall into the ground and die."

Insert more of Laura