How To Face Struggle Part 1

"8 Then came Amalek, and fought with Israel in Rephidim. 9 And Moses said unto Joshua, Choose us out men, and go out, fight with Amalek: to morrow I will stand on the top of the hill with the rod of God in mine hand. 10 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. 11 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 discomfited Amalek and his people with the edge of the sword. 14 And the LORD said unto Moses, Write this for a memorial in a book, and rehearse it in the ears of Joshua: for I will utterly put out the remembrance of Amalek from under heaven. 15 And Moses built an altar, and called the name of it Jehovahnissi: 16 For he said, Because the LORD hath sworn that the LORD will have war with Amalek from generation to generation." (Exodus 17:8-16 KJV)

Struggles will come into our lives and God will allow that to happen for a certain purpose that God wants us to achieve and lessons to learn. Therefore every day is a challenge for us to live our lives to God and to take our stand and do what is right and just. God did not promise us that there will be no challenges or that we will not face challenges for the work of the devil will continue against each and every one of us and against the Church of God but here in this message God will teach us how to fight and overcome those challenges.

In the above chosen Scripture as we read, there was an invasion and attack from the Amalekites toward the Israelites, who responded favorably to that threat and successfully passed that challenge by observing the following:

- 1. Face the challenge by informing the church: When the Amalekites attached the Israelites the situation reached Moses, being the leader was aware of the situation. In whatever struggle that you are passing through let the church know what you are passing through. * When the enemy attacks any one of us, the church should know about it. We cannot fight alone but we need to fight as a united group, and as we are directed by the Holy Spirit and the Word of God. * The church should not escape the responsibility in facing such challenges because the problem will not be solved unless we face it. We must learn to face challenges and not escape our responsibilities. We need to go through the cross and do the will of God. We should not bypass the cross and the challenge.
- 2. Face the challenge: "8 Then came Amalek, and fought with Israel in Rephidim." (Exodus 17:1 KJV) Challenges and troubles will come in our lives, and we need to face them and not to quit or escape the challenge. Don't be like an ostrich that will hide its head in the ground when it faces threats. The Israelites faced the challenge of the Amalekites, they went and fought, and they overcome. The Amalekites here were descendents from Ham. The challenge the Israelites faced was not an easy, they were in the wilderness and there was no water and those came to attack them. Their purpose was to loot them and to take the plunder from them that they got from Egypt. They came to attack them to hinder them from reaching their inheritance in the promise land. They took advantage of them for they came to attack them when they were weak, tired, thirsty, lacking water and having many feeble people with them. They came to

attack them from the backside, the hinder part of them; those who were weak among them as we can conclude from *Deuteronomy 25*, "17 Remember what Amalek did unto thee by the way, when ye were come forth out of Egypt; 18 How he met thee by the way, and smote the hindmost of thee, even all that were feeble behind thee, when thou wast faint and weary; and he feared not God." (Deuteronomy 25:17-18 KJV) So even when you are weak the enemy will not stop fighting therefore we need to be ready for the challenges. Moses responded to the challenge as he spoke and commissioned Joshua. * You do the same, face the challenge and don't escape, even you are in difficult situation and lack of certain essential things, but trust the Lord; He will enable you to do that and you will overcome. * We as a church do the same, we go forward and face the challenges, and we will overcome as God ordained. We have no choice but to face because the enemy is coming to kill and steal and destroy and we need to go on and fight the good fight to protect ourselves and to do the will of God.

- 3. Face the challenge with the right person: "9 And Moses said unto Joshua, Choose us out men, and go out, fight with Amalek: to morrow I will stand on the top of the hill with the rod of God in mine hand." (Exodus 17:9 KJV) Moses spoke the matter with Joshua because he was Moses' aide, and he was a man of faith and have obedient heart to the Lord and he can depend on him for such. For every struggle there is a right person for a right reason that God wants you to approach to let the problem solve. In the New Testament Joshua is Jesus, because Joshua brought the people to the promised land as Jesus brought us into eternal life by His blood that was shed on the cross to forgive our sins and to give us eternal life. That is why when we pray we come to God in the name of Jesus. We need to work with people that we trust them and trust their faithfulness to God. Moses said to Joshua, "go out, fight with Amalek", because they invaded Israel from the back side and Joshua now needed to go out to push them out and away from the feeble people, away from the women and the children and those who were old. In the same way we have no choice but to go out and face the enemy and preach the Gospel of Jesus and fight the good fight to save ourselves and those feeble with us.
- 4. Face the struggle with faithful people: God wants us to approach faithful and obedient people in facing our struggles. When the Amalekites invaded the Israelites Moses spoke to Joshua about the matter and commanded him to do the following, "Choose us out men, and go out, fight with Amalek:" God called us to work with faithful people, those who are obedient to the Lord and faithful toward His Word. We need to choose faithful people, honest and fearing God, have a burden for the ministry and the service of God, filled with the Holy Spirit and have the wisdom of God, and so we work with such a kind of people in serving the Lord. If you chose to go along people who are smart but are not faithful to God, and you are relying on their power, or authority or because they are smart, then be sure that you will not be able to overcome the struggle. Such kind of people they will use wrong ways to solve the problems like bribe, fraud, telling lies or cheating and the Lord will not bless you if your path deviates to such ways but you will suffer harm as God's Word Says, "20 He that walketh with wise men shall be wise: but a companion of fools shall be destroyed." (Proverbs 13:20 KJV)
- 5. Face the challenge will strategy: When there was an attack against the people of God Moses commissioned Joshua to go out with the chosen men and fight them and he will go to the top of the hill with Aaron and Hur. So Moses decided to face the struggle with two teams; one team is the team of Joshua that will go out and face, and the second is Moses and those with him will go to the top of the hill to pray. So in the same way that will be our strategy, one

part of us will go out to face the challenge and the other part will be responsible to continue to pray. We pray and back one another with prayers.

- 6. Face the struggle with transparency: If you pass through struggle and the church and we don't know anything about it then how we can pray for you, and how you can get the right advice. That is now shows the importance of the reporting and giving updates. You see here Joshua got the advice from Moses of how to face the challenge by choosing out men, and Joshua did as Moses told him to fight Amalek. So here there will be instructions coming from the church, as Moses was giving the instructions to Joshua and procedures of how to fight the Amalekites. So transparency is important so the church can give you the right advice.
- 7. Face the struggle by lifting your hands to the throne of God: Moses said to Joshua, "to morrow I will stand on the top of the hill with the rod of God in mine hand." We face struggles through prayer. We go and face the struggle, as well as we sit down and pray. Some will go and face the struggle, while the others will back them in prayer and fasting. The Word of God teaches us the following, "Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need." (Hebrews 4:16 KJV) In the same way we need to lift up our hands unto God in prayers to back up our brethren who are fighting the Lord's battles.
- 8. Face the struggle by encouraging others: Moses not only commissioned Joshua to do that but also he encouraged him when he promised that while he will be fighting the Amalekites he will be with Aaron and Hur on the top of the hill, to back him in prayer unto God. In the same way we give the instructions and the advices and we encourage the people that we will back them in prayers while they are engaged in the battle, and in such way they will be morally supported.
- 9. Face the struggle with the power of God: Moses said to Joshua about the rod of God, "the rod of God in mine hand" that was the same rod that Moses throw and became a snake and swallowed the other snakes that the magicians of Egypt did, and the same rod that Moses used in bringing the plagues on Egypt, and in dividing the red sea preparing the way for the Israelites to be delivered. The meaning of what Moses said, "the rod of God in mine hand" that Moses was depending on the power of God. And here today we have the Holy Spirit that the Lord had given us and we need to depend on the Holy Spirit in all our battles. * The Holy Spirit is God, and as we are filled with the Holy Spirit then God is with us, and we rely fully on Him as we face our struggles with God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit, * Therefore, "the rod of God" is the power of God in our lives and when we pray then we are depending on the power of God the Holy Spirit in our lives; for we cannot rely on our power, resources, our capabilities or our numbers to face challenges. * Even if we have many resources, money, material things or even if we are big in number, we cannot depend on all such, but we depend on the presence of God's power in our lives, the power of God the Holy Spirit.
- 10. Face the struggle and overcome with obedience to the instructions: "10 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 17:10 KJV) Joshua immediately put the instructions of Moses to him into action. He did it precisely and promptly the day after. While Moses, Aaron and Hur went

up to the top of the hill for prayer; the first team went out to fight and the second team went up to the top of the hill.

- 11. Face the battle with continuous reporting: Why they went to the top of the hill? Most likely was to see the battle clearly. As we spoke there will be two teams, a team to go out and face, and a team will back up in prayers. But those who are praying they must know what is going on and what is the situation and the progress. After we know the problem and after we give the solution, and a group went out to face the problem, and the other group started to pray, that group that is praying must know the details of the events that are taking place and progress in solving this issue or if there are another obstacles so that they will know what to pray. Verse 11 it confirms what we are saying here, "when Moses held up his hand, that Israel prevailed: and when he let down his hand, Amalek prevailed." Moses observed that his prayer was the aid of Joshua, so it was compulsory for the prayer to be maintained. So here we can also conclude the importance of continuous reporting. Also we can conclude that the victory did not depend on the fighting of Joshua but on the presence of God in the life of His people. In the same way we need to maintain our prayer and fasting for the victory to be achieved.
- 12. Face the struggle and overcome with persistent prayer: "11 And it came to pass, when Moses held up his hand, that Israel prevailed: and when he let down his hand, Amalek prevailed." (Exodus 17:11) You need to be alert and continue to pray, even when things are going well; continue to pray because the attack is not yet finished and it will continue because our enemy is the devil who will continue to attack us till the Lord will come and take us with Him. So even in time of peace be discerning and continue to pray so that the enemy will not be able to prevail again. Therefore, "17 Pray without ceasing." (1 Thessalonians 5:17 KJV) and also as we read here, "18 Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints; 19 And for me, that utterance may be given unto me, that I may open my mouth boldly, to make known the mystery of the gospel," (Ephesians 6:18-19) Moses was praying by raising his hands and his banner was Jehovahnissi "15 And Moses built an altar, and called the name of it Jehovahnissi:" (Exodus 17:15) Our banner is Jehovahnissi. When the people rally, they lift up banners, the banner is written on paper or a garment, and at the ends of them attached to two rods, one from each side, and so by these two rods, two people will raise the banner. So here Moses by raising his two hands he was raising that banner that their victory was only from God, our God, the Father, the Holy Spirit, and our Lord Jesus Christ. The same is our banner, our power and our victory. Today we as a church this is our banner' we don't depend on our wisdom, or our resources, but we depend on the power of God, on the Word of God, and the directions, the instructions and the revelation of the Holy Spirit given to us of what we need to do.

Some people they said we are praying and the things are not getting well so why we are praying? But the thing here is that without prayers struggles will become worse. Our persistent prayers is so important, sometimes we will not see the effect of our prayers at once but later on the effect will be clear. May be the effects of our prayer will extend to our children and the next generation. Moses wrote, "16 For he said, Because the Lord hath sworn that the Lord will have war with Amalek from generation to generation." (Exodus 17:16 KJV) The effect of Moses' prayer extended to many other generations. The same for us the effect of our persistent prayer will extend to the next generations.

Struggle it could be a continuous problem like finances, peoples' disputes, work issues, family struggles, land or estate settlement, etc, and these could continue for long time. Here the message will help us and show us how to face and overcome as we continue to meditate on the chosen passage in *Exodus* 17:8-16.

- 13. Face the struggle united: As we see here that there were two teams who were united, the team of Joshua and the team of Moses. Unity is very important for the victory. Unity in the church should be unity in God's Word, and unity in doing God's will and purpose.
- 14. Face the struggle with willingness: Moses was willing to continue to pray. Even when he was tired God made a way for him to sit down on a rock and two others will support his hands. God made a way because Moses was willing. What we conclude here that if you are willing to obey God's instruction then God will make a way for you to continue to obey Him and get delivered.
- 15. Face the struggle with perseverance: The Word of God tells us about Moses that "his hands were steady until the going down of the sun." For certain struggles that you will face in your life, or the church will face, perseverance is needed till the attack is over. Some time we loss battles because we are not persevering to the end. Therefore as Moses' hands remained steady we need to continue to be steady in our fight until we win the battle. The Word of God tells us the following: "Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer: behold, the devil shall cast some of you into prison, that ye may be tried; and ye shall have tribulation ten days: be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life." (Revelation 2:10 KJV) Certain times the battle is furious but we need to persevere to the end. After we win then we can get time of rest and refreshment.
- 16. Face the struggle with consistency: Consistency in our Christians life is needed. Some people today they are warm and active and tomorrow they are cold and inactive. Or today they are fresh and encouraged and tomorrow they are frustrated, depressed and discouraged. One thing you must know and keep: Don't allow circumstances and events to control you and manipulate your life, and don't go along with your emotions or the feelings of your heart, or the realities of life; this will not help you to overcome. Focus on God and on His Word and His promises and walk in faith in His ways and sure you will overcome.
- 17. Face the struggle with a team work, unity, and cooperation helping one another: "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." (Exodus 17:12 KJV) One person doing the whole work will be tired and he will be in need of help. The same person praying, fasting, serving, working, and ministering will get tired and he will be in need of help. We need to help one another. Aaron and Hur when they saw that Moses hands became heavy they took the initiative; they took a stone and put it under him and he sat on it. There must be a solution. The presence of the church is to give solutions and instructions how to overcome the difficulties. With Moses was Aaron, who was his brother and faithful to him, and with him also was Hur, whom the Jewish said he was the husband of Miriam their sister. This is not written in the Bible, but we can take it as a historical information, but the purpose of it is that those who serve with us they needed to be known being faithful and being honest so the ministry will be blessed and the Lord will be in this ministry. When Moses got tired, they got a stone and put

it under him and he sat on it, and they supported his hands to be stayed up, one on this side and the other on the other side. So his two hands were stead up fast until the sunset. * You need to take the initiative; we need support, the church needs support, I need support, so we will spend less effort, and for the ministry to continue and to be successful, and for us to win the war. * I pray for people like Aaron and Hur will come forward and support the work of God. They let Moses to sit on a stone and they were standing, the hands of Moses was raised, but he did not need muscles to keep them up, because when he raised up his hands, Aaron and Hur from the two sides supported Moses and helped him to keep his hands raised up to the throne of God. So there was a person sitting and at rest and there was two persons standing and also were at rest. We should serve in a way that even in doing the ministry we are in rest. And this is the beauty in serving the Lord. That is how beautiful is the church that work according to the Word of God, according to the will of God and work by the power of God and according to the instructions of the Holy Spirit. In such a way, the church will be working and without tiredness. As we see here that the two hands of Moses were stead fast until the sunset and the prayer continued until Joshua defeated the Amalekites, "13 And Joshua discomfited Amalek and his people with the edge of the sword." (Exodus 17:13 KJV) The sword here for us is the sword of the Holy Spirit which is the Word of God, The church will be able to stand firm when doing the will of God.; Joshua was doing the will of God and Moses was backing up in prayers. * The church can back up in prayers, back up in help and support, back up in fasting, and back up in giving advices to win the battle. * As a church everyone should do his responsibility toward God and his contribution to the church, the body of Christ. The attitude of carrying each other burden and unity should be there. "2 Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ." (Galatians 6:2 KJV) As well as the Word of God teaches us the following: "12 For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body: so also is Christ. 13 For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit. 14 For the body is not one member, but many. 15 If the foot shall say, Because I am not the hand, I am not of the body; is it therefore not of the body? 16 And if the ear shall say, Because I am not the eye, I am not of the body; is it therefore not of the body? 17 If the whole body were an eye, where were the hearing? If the whole were hearing, where were the smelling? 18 But now hath God set the members every one of them in the body, as it hath pleased him. 19 And if they were all one member, where were the body? 20 But now are they many members, yet but one body. 21 And the eye cannot say unto the hand, I have no need of thee: nor again the head to the feet, I have no need of you. 22 Nay, much more those members of the body, which seem to be more feeble, are necessary: 23 And those members of the body, which we think to be less honourable, upon these we bestow more abundant honour; and our uncomely parts have more abundant comeliness. 24 For our comely parts have no need; but God hath tempered the body together, having given more abundant honour to that part which lacked. 25 That there should be no schism in the body; but that the members should have the same care one for another. 26 And whether one member suffer, all the members suffer with it; or one member be honoured, all the members rejoice with it. 27 Now ye are the body of Christ, and members in particular." (1 Corinthians 12:12-27 KJV) We carry the different gifts of the Holy Spirit, therefore we need to continue to serve God using the gifts of the Holy Spirit, to help and support and care for one another. As you are placed in the church, use the Holy Spirit gifts to serve God and to do the work of God, so the church will grow and will go forward and overcome struggles.

18. Face the struggle in this way that after overcoming the struggle write down your testimony to encourage others: "14 And the LORD said unto Moses, Write this for a memorial in a book, and rehearse it in the ears of Joshua: for I will utterly put out the remembrance of Amalek from under heaven." (Exodus 17:14 KJV) The Lord commanded Moses to write what had happened to be remembered, so that the next generations will read and know the ways of the Lord and how they will face and overcome struggles in their lives. Moses wrote it not only for Joshua to review it so he will be encouraged, but also for the next generations and also for us today to be encouraged and to be taught how we will do the Lord's battles. That we will know there is a solution and there is hope and the way as the Scripture is showing us. Even if we are living among giants and among people whom not only in size they are bigger than us, but even materially and physically they are higher than us, but still we can overcome them as we described and we learned in this message. That is why God said to Moses to write it in a book, to be in a memory, and rehearse it in the ears of Joshua to encourage him that God will utterly put out the remembrance of Amalek from under Heaven. In the same way we need to rehearse the Word of God in the ears of our children, disciples and our co workers, who are the next generation whom they will come after us. That is to give them lessons from the Word of God that such an issue can be solved in the following way as it is written here of this issue in this passage of the Bible. God promised here that he will "utterly put out the remembrance of Amalek from under heaven." God promised that whatever the big size of the work of the devil against us and against the church, and against the individual members and against the families, that He shall utterly put out the work of the devil from infront of us; that as we go and face the work of the devil and as we continue to pray and fast then the work of the devil will be utterly destroyed. Even if the work of the devil will disappear it may come back again, that is why we need to continue to pray and continue to abide with the same principles that we learned, that we need to be ready to face; there will be a group like Joshua who go and face, and a group like Moses Aaron, and Hur who stand firm, listening and watching upon the updates and the new events and pray so they can support the team of Joshua, the disciples, our brethren and the workers who are in the frontline to face the challenges.

"15 And Moses built an altar, and called the name of it Jehovahnissi: 16 For he said, Because the LORD hath sworn that the LORD will have war with Amalek from generation to generation." (Exodus 17:15-16 KJV) The meaning of Jehovahnissi is that God our banner. I hope that this message, this sermon and this real story from the Bible to be a lesson to us that teaches us that the Lord shall be with us, and he will be the one to fight for us; he will be the one to destroy all the chains that restrain us and He will be the one to fight Amalek, our enemies from generation to generation, until the end when the devil will be thrown in the lake of fire and brimstone at the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ. So we need to continue steadfast to work the will of God and do according to the instructions of the Holy Spirit.

My Dear and Beloved: God said to Moses "rehearse it in the ears of Joshua:" Joshua was the one who will enter and lead the people into the promised land. And we are Joshua's generation that will enter the promised land, the eternal life that we have in Christ Jesus our Lord, and we are the one to lead others to enter eternal life. So let us take heed of the message and put it into practice, in overcoming struggles and in achieving to God what He wants us to achieve for His glory.

As a church we need to be united, we need to do God's will, we need to come forward and help in pushing the work of God forward; we need to obey the Word of God and the instructions of the Holy Spirit, and we need to support one another.

My Prayer: Father God in Heaven, I come before you in Jesus name who died on the cross for my sins to give me eternal life. Lord thank you for your clear Word to me. Lord thank you for reminding me of your ways so I will know how to face struggles in my life.

Put the struggle that you are facing today in the hand of God. Lord I ask you to help me to face the following struggle _______.

Commit yourself to the principles that you learned from the message. Commit yourself to come and open up to the church your problem to be counseled and receive advices and be supported in prayers and fasting, and the Word of God which are the weapons of the church today, in addition to the name of Jesus and the blood of Jesus and the praises to Him our God. Commit yourself to come forward and do the work of God and support the ministries of the church.

Lord I accept the challenge that you placed ahead of me when you called me to serve you and live my life unto you. Lord light the fire of the Holy Spirit in me again to serve you. Lord help me to persevere in prayer, and build up my faith on your Words and on your ways. Lord I commit myself to work and cooperate with the right and faithful people to serve you. Lord I commit myself and I am willing to contribute to the church, your body, in whatever way you would lead me to do. Lord I commit myself to walk in your ways and to lead others to walk in your ways, to have eternity in Christ Jesus our Lord. Lord I commit myself to be persistent in prayer and fully relying on the Holy Spirit. Lord I lift up my hands to you, uphold me Lord with your grace and fight for me, this is my prayer in Jesus name Amen.

Lord thank you for all the brethren and the sisters who committed their lives to you and the principles that we learned in this message. Lord refill them with the Holy Spirit and give them the spiritual gifts that they need to go and serve you. Lord protect them and guide them, and continue to provide their needs so they will continue to serve you.

Lord bless us as a church, protect us and fight the battle for us and fulfill all what you promised in wiping away all the work of the devil that is coming against us. We come against all the work of the devil and rebuke it in the name of Jesus. Lord we commit ourselves to teach our children and disciples about what we are seeing of the marvelous works of yours in our lives. Lord go before us and level mountains and enable us to deal with struggles and challenges. Lord refill us again with the Holy Spirit and give us the spiritual gifts to go and evangelize and make disciples and train new workers to plant new Bible studies and new congregations for the church. Lord let the vision that you give to your church, 'Multiplication in peace with implementing the whole will of God' to be fulfilled. Lord bless us, enlarge our territory, let your hand be with us and free us from harm so that we will not feel pain. May the

grace of the Lord Jesus and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all in Jesus name, Amen.

How To Face Struggle Part 1. Exodus 17:8-16. Deuteronomy 25:17-18. Proverbs 13:20. Hebrews 4:16. 1 Thessalonians 5:17. Ephesians 6:18-19. Revelation 2:10. Galatians 6:2.1 Corinthians 12:12-27.

Dr. Ramiz Khalaf
The Church Overseer
Church of God
United Arab Emirates
www.churchofgoduae.com
Email: thebread1@gmail.com
Mobile Tel #: 00971551902647

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