**Going deeper in Exodus 17:8-13**

**INTRODUCTION –** The Israelites had been freed from slavery in Egypt and under the leadership of Moses they fled into the wilderness. God has provided guidance as a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night. He has miraculously provided food and water in the desert. As the chariots of Pharaoh’s army were rapidly approaching, Moses raised the staff of God and through the power of God the waters of the Red Sea parted providing an escape route for the Israelites. As the people, tired and worn out camped Rephidim, they were ambushed by the Amalekites forcing God’s chosen people to engage in their first military battle.

**READ** – *Read (passage) aloud. Read it several times. Listen for what the Spirit of God is saying, don’t just think about it.*

**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.

**ENGAGE** – *Questions for going deeper. God is speaking… to you.*

1. What leadership is exerted here by Moses? Joshua? Aaron and Hur?

2. What do you think is the significance of Moses’ raised hands in this story?

3. Who has held up our arms during times of crisis or great stress? Whose hands are you thankful for?

4. How are you at being an Aaron or Hur and giving someone else support? Who is thankful for your hands?

5. What lesson is there for you in the battle between the Israelites and the Amalekites?

**PRAY** – *God has spoken. So, reply.*

\*Pray and ask God to reveal the true source of the battles you are facing.

\*Ask for the humility needed to accept help from others if you are struggling.

\*Ask for insight to see who may be in need of your hands.

**LIVE** – *This is where the rubber hits the road.*

We cannot deny that our country is in the grip of serious conflict as we navigate a pandemic and a contentious election season. This week, reflect on how you are spiritually responding to our current circumstances. Are your arms getting tired? Do you need help? How are the people around you responding? Are they getting tired? Do they need help – your help? In light of your introspection, prayerfully consider your next steps and how you can overcome and how your hands can become the hands someone else is thankful for.