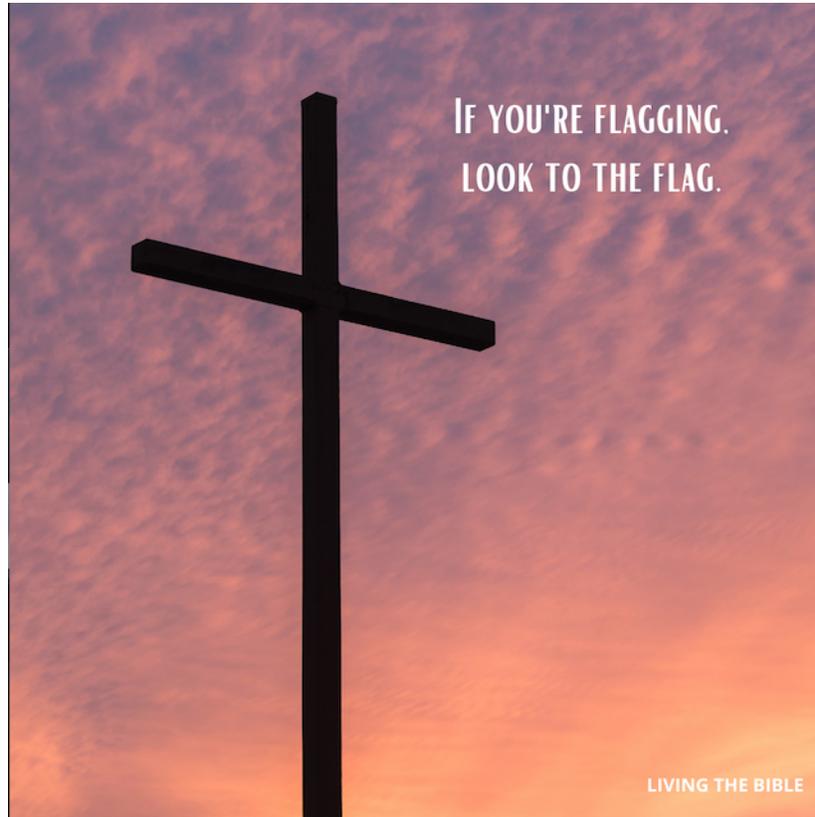


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# A FLAG FOR FLAGGING SOULS

EXODUS 17:8-15



Before the days of radio communication, soldiers had to keep their eye on their General, who could usually be identified by a flag, a banner, or some other insignia of the nation. If soldiers got lost and lost sight of him they would lose sight of the cause, the commander, and hope of victory.

The importance of keeping eyes on the general's flag is demonstrated in Exodus 17:8-15, and can teach us a lot about spiritual warfare. So what did Israel see when they looked towards Moses, their general, and his banner?

- **OUR CAUSE IS COLOSSAL (8-9)**
- **OUR COMMANDER IS CONSTANT (10-12)**
- **OUR CONQUEST IS CERTAIN (13-15)**

## LEARNING

### **OUR CAUSE IS COLOSSAL (8-9)**

When the Amalekites decided to fight Israel, Moses said to Joshua, **“Choose for us men, and go out and fight with Amalek. Tomorrow I will stand on the top of the hill with the staff of God in my hand”** (9). Moses chose soldiers to fight, but with his staff he reminded them that it was ultimately God's fight.

WHEN WE'RE FIGHTING FOR GOD,  
GOD IS FIGHTING FOR US.

So we have a great cause, but do we have a leader?

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## OUR COMMANDER IS CONSTANT (10-12)

What did Israel see when they looked to their General? They saw their General looking to heaven and holding up the rod of God to heaven. He was saying, don't just look to me, but join me in looking to our heavenly General."

When Moses lifted his hand to heaven, Israel were winning, but when he lowered them through tiredness, Israel started losing (11). So **Aaron and Hur held up his hands, one on one side, and the other on the other side. So his hands were steady until the going down of the sun** (12). Isn't that a beautiful picture? From now on, whenever Israel looked to Moses they saw his hands were steady. Their general never flagged and therefore neither did they.

IF YOU'RE FLAGGING,  
LOOK TO THE FLAG.

So what will the result be with such a constant commander?

## OUR CONQUEST IS CERTAIN (13-15)

The result was a rout. **And Joshua overwhelmed Amalek and his people with the sword** (13). God fought for them, and with them, and therefore their conquest was certain. This was so memorable that God told Moses to write this down for future generations to repeat: **I will utterly blot out the memory of Amalek from under heaven** (14).

Another memory aid to encourage them in future battles was the altar Moses built and named, **The Lord is my Banner, saying "A hand upon the throne of the Lord"** (15-16). Moses was reminding them that their banner was not his hands or his rod, but what they were all pointing to – The Lord. His uplifted hands were a physical expression of prayerful need of and desire for God's power. He describes this prayer as **a hand upon the throne of the Lord**. Prayer is placing **a hand upon the throne of the Lord**. Who can lose when that's our banner and hope?

WHEN WE LIFT OUR HANDS IN PRAYER,  
WE'RE PLACING OUR HANDS ON THE THRONE OF THE LORD.

LOVING

We have an even greater altar and banner in the cross of Christ. There the greater Moses lifted up his hands to heaven and connected heaven to earth with his cross. There he defeated the forces of hell, death, and sin, and emerged victorious. When we look to the victorious Christ on the cross, we're placing a hand on the throne of the Lord.

LIVING

Place your hand on God's throne by looking to the cross of Christ and victory will be yours.

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