

Dgroup Discussion Guide for January 22, 2017

Victorious Prayer

Scripture: **Exodus 17**

Water from the Rock

The Israelites were now camped out at Rephidim. When they settled they began to complain and grumble again that there was no water. Later they began to quarrel with Moses, Moses reprimands them “ **Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the Lord**” (Exodus 17:2) But the people of Israel continued to grumble. They had forgotten God’s miracle in Marah and His provision of quail and manna.

So Moses entreated the Lord and God instructed Moses in v 5-6. So Moses obeyed the Lord and struck the rock at Horeb, and water began to flow. Moses trusted in the Lord and he believed in God’s goodness.

For those of us who have experienced God’s goodness and faithfulness, it becomes easier for us to trust and rely on God. If we have truly experienced the power of His presence in our lives, then we have no reason to complain or grumble.

The Israelites on the other hand began to question God’s presence among them. When something goes wrong the immediate reaction is to complain and grumble. They look at their situation and only see what they perceive is suffering forgetting all that God has done for them.

We too sometimes fall into this trap. When we encounter trials and problems. Our knee jerk reaction is to complain and grumble . . . to question God’s goodness and faithfulness. When we find ourselves in this situation, we have to check our hearts – and ask ourselves – do we really trust God?

The Amalekites Defeated

While the Israelites were in Rephidim, the Amalekites came and waged war against them. Moses then instructed Joshua to choose some men to go and fight. Moses on the other hand, was going up to stand on the hill.

Joshua did what Moses ordered him to do, while Moses, Aaron and Hur went to the top of the hill. Verse 11 says **As long as Moses held up his hands, the Israelites were winning; but whenever he lowered his hands, the Amalekites were winning**”

What is the significance of Moses’ lifting up his hands?

Psalm 28: 2 **Hear the voice of my supplications when I cry to you for help, when I lift up my hands towards your holy sanctuary.**

So what was Moses really doing on top of the hill? He has praying, asking God for help.

God wants us to lift up our hands in prayer. 1 Tim 2: 8 says ***Therefore I want the men in every place to pray, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and dissension.***

It is not compulsory for us to really lift up our hands. We may have our hands lifted up but our hearts do not belong to God. God is more concerned with the attitude of our hearts. We lift our hands in a physical show that we admit that we need God in our lives.

At the end of the day, Joshua overwhelmed the Amalekites. Not because they were more in number or that they were more powerful. The Israelites won, because Moses prayed unceasingly.

How do we pray?

1. PRAY UNCEASINGLY

1 Thessalonians 5: 16-17 Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, in everything give thanks for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

2. PRAY FOR GOD'S WILL

1 John 5:14-15 This is the confidence which we have before Him, that, if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us.

3. PRAY EXPECTANTLY

James 1:6-8 But he must ask in faith without any doubting, for the one who doubts is like surf of the sea, driven and tossed by the sea

4. PRAY IN COMMUNITY

James 5:16 Therefore, confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another so that you may be healed. The effective prayer of a righteous man can accomplish much.

APPLICATION:

Patiently listen as God reveals where you can apply the passage's lesson in your life. Write down specific action points to what He has revealed to you.

Points to reflect on:

1. Do we still find ourselves grumbling and complaining against God?
2. What are the things that we often grumble and complain about?
3. What is the condition of our hearts when we come to God in prayer? Have we really lifted our lives in total surrender to His will?

How do we pray?

Which among the three points do I actually practice?

Which among the three points do I struggle with?

PRAYERS:

Lift all the things that you learned back to God. Share your thoughts to Him. If He is impressing a sin in your life, confess it to Him. He is always ready to forgive.