

"They are not afraid of evil tidings;
(why?) Secure in the Lord."—Ps. 112:7

The Amazing Power of Prayer

"(v.8) While the people of Israel were still at Rephidim, the warriors of Amalek came to fight against them. (v.9) Moses commanded Joshua, 'Call the Israelites to arms, and fight the army of Amalek. Tomorrow, I will stand at the top of the hill with the staff of God in my hand.'

(v.10) So Joshua did what Moses had commanded. He led his men out to fight the army of Amalek. Meanwhile Moses, Aaron, and Hur went to the top of a nearby hill. (v.11) As long as Moses held up the staff with his hands, the Israelites had the advantage. But whenever he lowered his hands, the Amalekites gained the upper hand. (v.12) Moses' arms finally became too tired to hold up the staff any longer. So Aaron and Hur found a stone for him to sit on. Then they stood on each side, holding up his hands until sunset. (v.13) As a result, Joshua and his troops were able to crush the army of Amalek.

(v.14) Then the LORD instructed Moses, 'Write this down as a permanent record, and announce it to Joshua: I will blot out every trace of Amalek from under heaven.' (v.15) Moses built an altar there and called it 'The LORD is My Banner.' (v.16) He said, 'they have dared to raise their fist against the LORD's throne, so now the Lord will be at war with Amalek generation after generation.'"

Exodus 17:8-16

(NLT)

New Living Translation

Pt. # 1→ Moses discovered that day that God's prevailing power is released
Through prayer! (v.11-12)

Pt. # 2→ That power may come in the form of wisdom,
of courage greater than yours,
of confidence,
of persevere,
a changed attitude,
changed circumstances,
an outright miracle.

Pt. # 3→ Celebrate that ***power!***

Pt. # 4→ Notice the power of God is used in the defense of His people. (v.8-9)

Pt. # 5→ What is the role Moses' arms play in this demonstration of God's power?
(v.9-13)

When Moses held the staff of God high—success!
When Moses dropped his hands and God's staff—defeat!

It's ***not easy*** to lift up your hands and arms for most
of the day while you are holding a big stick.

- It certainly ***wasn't for the psychological effect***. That would trivialize the whole scene on the mountain.
- The traditional explanation is that ***Moses' hands were lifted up in prayer***.
That is reading back into the record too much of our own 20th century piety.
- The obvious meaning is that just as God provided water and bread in the wilderness to the Israelites ***He could also provide protection for them*** from the attack of Israel's enemies.

The third one fits the record, the Lord, and Israel.

- ❖ **The rod was the instrument, the symbol, by which all things were accomplished through the power of God.**
- ❖ **It meant then that Israel won in virtue of the power of God and not by her own strength or military cunning.**

Meaning for You and Me:

No more than Israel can—we can't win our own conflicts in our own strength.
Our strength and our wisdom come from God alone! We are here today
because we know this vision would never have been realized without
the power of Christ.

How about you personally? Who hold the rod up for you?
Who guides you through all the twists and turns of life?
I pray it is Jesus!