



“Directed by God, the whole company of Israel moved on by stages from the Wilderness of Sin. They set camp at Rephidim... Amalek came and fought Israel at Rephidim. Moses ordered Joshua: ‘Select some men for us and go out and fight Amalek. Tomorrow I will take my stand on top of the hill holding God’s staff.’

Joshua did what Moses ordered in order to fight Amalek. And Moses, Aaron, and Hur went to the top of the hill. It turned out that whenever Moses raised his hands, Israel was winning, but whenever he lowered his hands, Amalek was winning. But Moses’ hands got tired. So they got a stone and set it under him. He sat on it and Aaron and Hur held up his hands, one on each side. So his hands remained steady until the sun went down. Joshua defeated Amalek and its army in battle” (Exodus 17: 1, 8-13, *The Message*).

This story is packed full of life-changing truths but I want to draw your attention to the role of interdependence. As the spiritual leader of Israel Moses knew that in order for Israel to survive radical action was necessary which meant Israel needed to function as a whole and every one needed to do his or her part. Moses could not do what Joshua could, and Joshua could not do what Aaron and Hur could do, and we dare not forget about the people selected by Joshua to fight. All needed to do their part in order for Israel to survive. The bottom-line – the whole company working together was greater than the sum of its individual efforts, which led to divine power flowing through them, allowing Israel not only to survive but to thrive.

Any lessons for the church here?

No matter what role you play in the church, you are important! You are needed! You are indispensable to the achievement of our mission, which is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. Our survival, our future depends upon [our willingness to work together](#) so that divine power might flow through us.

Now, a word to the leaders: like Moses, Aaron, and Hur, I am encouraging every pastor on the district to invite two other leaders to come to Bishop’s Day on March 10. (Certainly more than three would be acceptable!) Come to the “top of the hill” or for us it’s Saginaw First UMC, and be informed and inspired by Zach Hunter, Carl Gladstone, Dr. Floyd “Bud” Stevens, Charissa Shawcross, and others. Come to learn how we might put our faith into action.

Come to the hill-top.