



# SERMON DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Speaker: Chris Royalty // Sunday: May 5, 2024

- 1) Begin your time by briefly praying and asking the Holy Spirit to help you as you discuss and study.
- 2) Read Exodus 17:8-16 together.
- 3) What stuck out to you as you read? Is there anything you don't understand? Is there anything you'd like to discuss?
- 4) Commentary:

“Raising one's arms is a sign of dependent prayer elsewhere in the Bible.”  
(See Exodus 9:27-29; Psalm 63:3-4; Psalm 141:2; 1 Tim 2:8)<sup>1</sup>

- 5) When Moses raised his hands and held up his staff, was he practicing magic? What is the difference between magic and intercessory prayer? Where does the power and control lie in each case?<sup>2</sup>
- 6) When praying, what is the significance of kneeling, folding hands, and bowing, or standing, raising hands, and looking toward heaven? When would each be appropriate?
- 7) Compare Moses interceding for Israel, a Christian interceding for a friend, and Christ interceding for a Christian. What is the definition of intercession, and what is the ideal procedure and outcome?
- 8) Respond to this quote from Tony Merida:

In our battles we must fight like Joshua, but we also must hold up our hands to God's throne and say, “It is out of my control.” We must go to the throne of grace and say, “Help me!” We need courageous, Joshua-like warriors who will take the gospel to hard places, fight injustice, and serve the needy—but all of it must be done in a spirit of dependent prayer.<sup>3</sup>

- 9) Why do you think God told Moses to “write this down?”

10) Merida explains the meaning of banner:

Moses does the same here, calling it “The Lord is My Banner” (Yahweh-nissi). This word was used “in military contexts, where the neš is a signal pole around which an army or army unit can rally, regroup, or return for instructions” (Stuart, Exodus, 400). The Lord is where we regroup, rally, and get instructions.<sup>4</sup>

11) With this in mind, what is the meaning of “The Lord is My Banner” in our lives?

12) How does Christ serve as a military banner? How can He help us avoid political infighting and succeed in spiritual warfare?

13) End your time in prayer. Ask God to help you apply the things you’ve discussed and learned during this time of study.

<sup>1</sup> Tony Merida, *Exalting Jesus in Exodus* (Nashville, TN: Holman Reference, 2014), 109.

<sup>2</sup> Some of these questions taken from: Tony Merida, [Exalting Jesus in Exodus](#) (Nashville, TN: Holman Reference, 2014), 116–117.

<sup>3</sup> Tony Merida, *Exalting Jesus in Exodus* (Nashville, TN: Holman Reference, 2014), 109.

<sup>4</sup> Tony Merida, *Exalting Jesus in Exodus* (Nashville, TN: Holman Reference, 2014), 110.