

IMPACT

I Must **P**ersonally **A**cknowledge **C**hrist **T**oday
Trust in the LORD with all your heart, And lean not on your own under-
standing; *in all your ways acknowledge Him* and He shall direct your path.
Proverbs 3:5-6

Passage: Exodus 17:15-16 And Moses built an altar and called its name, *The-LORD-Is-My-Banner*; for he said, 'Because the LORD has sworn: the LORD will have war with Amalek from generation to generation'"

Quote: "Often times God demonstrates His faithfulness in adversity by providing for us what we need to survive. He does not change our painful circumstances. He sustains us through them." Charles Stanley

Israel had seen God restore bitter water at Marah. He provided refreshing and rest at Elim as well as Manna in the wilderness. In spite of all this, they still doubted His presence at Rephidim, and God provided water from out of a rock. Now they would need His protection from Amalek. Amalek was a grandson of Esau who placed the things of this world ahead of spiritual things. As Joshua led Israel into battle, Moses held the rod of Elohim in the air *interceding* for them and *inspiring* them to victory. The rod held high was like a banner or a symbol of their dependence upon the true and living God for victory.

Just as Jehovah Himself was the power for Israel's deliverance, Jesus is the power for our victory and His cross is the banner for Christians today.¹ We are to "fight the good fight of faith."² We are to "endure hardness as a good soldier of Jesus Christ."³ We are to "be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might."⁴ We are to "put on the whole armor of God and stand against the *trickery* of the devil."⁵ We are to "be ready to give an answer to every man" about our living hope in our risen and returning Lord.⁶ We are to prepare for persecution that comes to those who "live godly in Christ Jesus."⁷ We are humbly to place being true to Christ above any desire for popularity or peace, even within our own families.⁸

In Romans 8, Paul assured us that all things are working together for good to those who love God and are the called according to His purpose of conforming us to the image of His Son. He later asked, **"If God is for us, who can be against us?"** Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or

sword?"⁹ With confidence, he answered that *nothing can separate a Christian from the love of God*. This truth alone ought to make us willing to lift high the name of Christ with our focus upon the glory of God .

Be encouraged weary warrior, And faint not though
dark the hour For the Lord grants daily vict'ry
Through *His* persevering pow'r.

Take to you protective armor Fashioned by the Lord of Light. He will succor you in weakness Lest you falter in the fight.

Gird your loins for mortal combat. Bound by truth, enter the fray. With commitment to your Sov'reign, "Man the gap" without delay!

Guard your heart beneath the breastplate Of a character made pure. Consecrate desires and feelings, God's great glory to secure.

The LORD Who Protects

Confident in your redemption--Ready and equipped, now stand. From the Rock, your sure Foundation, Heed your Captain's least command.

With conviction's shield before you, Quench the fiery darts that rage. Rest and act upon each promise That faith reads on Sacred Page.

Claim the helmet of salvation; Hope inspires beyond dismay. Make each doubt a vanquished captive; Faith unwaiv'ring wins the day.

Spirit's Sword, both swift and pow'rful, Puts to flight the foes of God. It emboldens noble conquest Where faith's heroes each have trod.

Seek your God with prayers unceasing. Through the Spirit, plead for *grace*. *Hold aloft Christ's blood-bought banner, Ne'er retreating in disgrace.*

1 Phil.4:13; Gal.6:14 2 I Tim.6:12 3 II Tim.2:3 4 Eph.6:10 5 Eph. 6:11, 15 6 I Peter 3:15 7 I Peter 1:1-9; II Tim.3:10-17 8 Matt.10:21-37; II Tim.3; II Peter 3 9 Rom.8:28-30; 31, 35