

**Life Is Hard, God Helps**  
**Winning Life's Battles**  
**Part 1**

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*When Pharaoh finally let the people go, God did not lead along the main road that runs through Philistine territory, even though that was the shortest route to the Promised Land. God said, 'If the people are faced with a battle they might change their minds and return to Egypt. So God led them in a roundabout way through the wilderness towards the Red Sea. **Exodus 13:17-18***

God used delay and circumstances to prepare them for what was to come. And God is using delay and circumstances to prepare me for what is to come.

It takes small victories to prepare for bigger victories

*God trains their hands for battle. **Psalm 18:34***

*These are the nations that the Lord left in the land to test those Israelites who had not experienced the wars of Canaan. He did this to teach warfare to generations of Israelites who had no experience in battle. **Judges 3:1-3***

*From the time of Zebulun, 50,000 skilled warriors prepared for battle. **1 Chronicles 12:33***

God uses all the circumstances in my life to prepare me for the battles of my life

*And we know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God. **Romans 8:28***

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*While the people of Israel were still at Rephidim, the warriors of Amalek attacked them. Moses commanded Joshua, "Choose some men to go out and fight the army of Amalek for us. Tomorrow, I will stand at the top of the hill, holding the staff of God in my hand. So Joshua did what Moses commanded and fought the army of Amalek. Meanwhile, Moses, Aaron and Hur climbed to the top of a nearby hill. As long as Moses held the staff up in his hand, the Israelites had the advantage. But whenever he dropped his hand, the Amalakites gained the advantage. Moses arms soon became tired and he could no longer hold them up. So Aaron and Hur found a stone for him to sit on. Then they stood on each side of Moses, holding up his hands. So his*

*hands held steady until sunset. As a result, Joshua overwhelmed the army of Amalek in battle.* **Exodus 17:8-13**

No one wins life's big battles alone

*Two people are better off than one, for they can help each other succeed. If one person falls, the other can reach out and help. But someone who falls alone is in real trouble.* **Ecclesiastes 4:9**

*A real friend sticks closer than a brother.* **Proverbs 18:24**

*A friend is always loyal and a brother is born to help in time of need.* **Proverbs 17:17**

*As iron sharpens iron so a friend sharpens a friend.* **Proverbs 27:17**

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Warriors get scared  
They've just learned to fight scared

*The Lord Himself will fight for you. Just stay calm.* **Exodus 14:14**

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*As for me, my life has already been poured out as an offering to God. The time of my death is near. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, and I have remained faithful. And now the prize awaits me - the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the Righteous Judge, will give me on the day of his return. And the prize is not just for me but for all who eagerly look forward to his appearing.* **2 Timothy 4:6-8**