

THE NEVER-ENDING WAR:

The Battle Between the Flesh and the Spirit

Lesson 2: A Family Feud (continued) – Malachi 1:1-4)

Interestingly enough, on the surface we have a tendency to favor Esau. He appears to be the most likely to succeed. He is a man's man, self-sufficient. Jacob, on the other hand, is what we could consider a mama's boy. Who would choose? God said, "Jacob have I loved. Esau have I hated."

God is always against flesh, and flesh is always against God!

Exodus 17:8-13 – The children of Israel are on the way to the Promised Land, Canaan – not heaven, but a spirit filled life. They came out of Egypt (world) headed toward Canaan (spirit-filled life).

How to win the battle over the flesh:

Who is Amalek? Esau's grandson. **Read Genesis 36:12** – Amalek represents the flesh. It is always the flesh that tries to keep us from moving forward in victory.

The same way victory was won then, it's won now. Consider how Joshua prevailed in the valley while Moses was on the mountaintop. Victory came from holding up the rod.

Consider the rod: **Exodus 4:1-4**

The rod represented Moses's ability. "Throw it down" – God didn't need his ability. God doesn't need us to do for Him; He wants to do through us.

Galatians 5:16 – DOES NOT SAY "Don't fulfill lust of flesh so you can walk in the spirit". This is a battle over flesh that's won.

The bible also gives us an example of a battle over the flesh that was lost. **Read 1 Samuel 15:1-3**

Saul was a carnal man who tried to give to God the best of what God hates. God hates Esau. God hates the flesh. There is NOTHING that the flesh has that can be an offering to God (**Romans 8:8**)

2 Samuel 1:2-10

Saul spared Amalek, but Amalek didn't spare Saul. You may spare flesh, but flesh won't spare you.