

Agape House of Worship
Midweek Bible Study
Wednesday, June 2, 2021

Topic: Prevailing & Overcoming Obstacles-The Strategy of the Kingdom Ambassador

Text: 1 Corinthians 15:57-58

Facilitator: Deaconess (Dr.) Genevieve Kumapley

Nehemiah 4 & 6: 2 Kings 5:1-6; 9-15

*"but thanks be to God, who gives us the victory [as conquerors] through our Lord Jesus Christ. 58 Therefore, my beloved brothers and sisters, **be steadfast, immovable**, always excelling in the work of the Lord [always doing your best and doing more than is needed], being continually aware that your labor [even to the point of exhaustion] in the Lord is not futile nor wasted [it is never without purpose]. 1 Corinthians 15:57-58*

What is the definition of an obstacle?

obstruction, hindrance, impediment refer to something that interferes with or prevents action or progress.

An obstacle is something, material or nonmaterial, that stands in the way of literal or figurative progress: for example, lack of imagination is an obstacle to one's advancement.

- God has given you everything you need in life but expect that are challenges
- The ability to overcome obstacles is dependent on you

"Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything." James 1:2-4

What is the definition of Overcoming?

succeed in dealing with (a problem or difficulty). defeat (an opponent); prevail.

What is prevailing? 1 : to gain ascendancy through strength or superiority : triumph. 2 : to be or become effective or effectual

What does the bible say about overcomers?

What are some of the obstacles you have faced and how did you overcome them?

Obstacles that prevent us from achieving our targets in life can be Internal or external.

1. **internal obstacles. 2 Kings 5:1-6 ; 9-10-15**

What are some of the lessons we can learn from this story?

Pride can stand in the way 11-13

Lack of knowledge can stand in the way.

Overcoming obstacles requires radical obedience vs 14

What other takeaway points did you get from this story?

2. **External obstacles : Nehemiah Chapter 4: 1-21; 6:1-17**

What did you take away from this story? Nehemiah's strategy to overcome the obstacles included:

1. Prayer
2. Wisdom to have his team guard the location while others work
3. He maintained his focus; stood firm and finished the wall in 52 days
4. Encouragement

Take home message: there will always be people who will try to sabotage your work; discredit you or downright make fun of you! Ignore them! And Press through!

Strategies overcome life's Toughest Obstacles

When confronted with obstacles, it's easy to become a little overwhelmed, especially when the circumstances are unfamiliar and seem a little threatening and urgent. However, no matter what life throws your way, keep in mind that you always have options. *"For God will never give you the spirit of fear,[a] but the Holy Spirit who gives you mighty power, love, and self-control."* 2 Timothy 1:7

There are always things you can do, actions you can take, and decisions you can make that will help keep you focused and on track with your goals in the face of obstacles.

What are some of the practical & specific tools you use to keep you focused?

Here are some ideas to help you overcome life's toughest obstacles.

1. **Step Back Emotionally & get a heavenly perspective**

When unexpected obstacles suddenly arise, it's easy to get lost in our emotional reactions. However, for the most part, our emotional responses are often not very productive, and more times than not they don't actually help the situation. Key is to view see the situation in an objective and logical way. When you choose to stay calm and collected, that is when you grasp your circumstances from a heavenly perspective. You can then begin to identify the actual relevance and significance of the events that have just taken place. Sometimes obstacles are only as real as we make them out to be. Occasionally obstacles are merely misunderstandings and generalizations that we have made about our circumstances. At other times, obstacles are only as real as the assumptions that are clouding our judgment.

2. **Gain the Necessary Resources and Support/Seek Proper Guidance** When we lack the necessary resources to help us deal with the situation at hand, we need to question what pieces of the puzzle we are missing and look for the necessary tools, strategies, knowledge, and support to help us overcome these obstacles in optimal ways. There are many people out there who might have already dealt with and successfully overcome the circumstances you face today. *Sometimes, the answers we need to overcome an obstacle come from sources outside ourselves.*

3. **Get Your Priorities in Order** At times we're unable to overcome certain obstacles because our priorities are simply out of order. All this essentially boils down to committing yourself to lifelong learning. Become a lifelong learner and start acquiring the knowledge and skills you need to work through life's problems more effectively. **That is how to get your priorities in order. Consider what is my MVP? (my most valuable priority?)**

4. **Assess your obstacles and ask effective questions** To overcome an obstacle, you must first understand how it manifested in your life. With this in mind, ask yourself: ***What went wrong? What could've caused this? What must I do now?***

5. **Keep Things Simple and Take baby Steps** simplicity is the key in dealing with obstacles. The more we try and complicate things, the more likely we are to become overwhelmed with our circumstances. By taking baby steps, you ensure that you always remain in control and avoid getting caught up in your problems. The key is to break down what you need to do to overcome your obstacle into small manageable chunks. From there, progressively work on one or more chunks per day until you successfully reach your outcome.

6. **Sometimes it's not what you do, but rather what you let go of that has the greatest impact on your life.** To achieve any goal takes some form of sacrifice. The price for success is focusing on long range plan; and you must be willing to pay that price in the form of change or sacrifice. Many people typically struggle with this. They struggle because they get caught up in the instant gratification trap. Avoid this trap, and you will find it easier to overcome the obstacles that life throws your way.

7. **Don't Quit!** Finally, no matter what, don't because **the greatest opportunities are always intertwined with life's most significant struggles.** *2 Corinthians 15:58 Hebrews 12:1*

In conclusion, persistence, perseverance, a commitment to consistency are the tools necessary to overcome life's biggest obstacles. Prayer and heavenly wisdom are foundational to prevailing and overcoming obstacles. *"So do not throw away your confidence; it will be richly rewarded.36 You need to persevere so that when you have done the will of God, you will receive what he has promised. Hebrews 10:35-36*