

OVERCOMING OUR OBSTACLES

Joshua 6:1-27 (NLT)

- Even when we are seeking to love and live for the Lord, we are going to face obstacles and challenges in life.
- Question – *“What are some of the challenges that I am facing individually, and that we are facing as a church and region?”*
- There can be no “victories” in our lives if there are no “battles” to be won.
- Jericho was a strong, fortified city that seemed impregnable and invincible.
 - There is a “Jericho” in each of our lives that stands between us and God’s will for us.
 - Question – *“Who or what is the ‘Jericho’ in my life?”*
- For God’s great work to be accomplished in our lives, homes, church and region, we’re going to have to overcome our “Jericho’s” by God’s power and provision!
- Question – *“What does it take to overcome the ‘Jericho’s’ of life?”*

“OVERCOMING OUR OBSTACLES” REQUIRES:

DIALOGUING WITH THE LORD (Joshua 6:1-5)

- *“The LORD said to Joshua . . .”* (Joshua 6:2)
- Question – *“What do I do when I don’t know what to do?”*
- When Joshua was faced with great challenges he talked with the Lord about them (Joshua 1:1; 3:7; 4:2, 15; 5:2; 6:2).
- Tips for communicating with the Lord include:
 1. Setting a time and place every day for prayer and Bible reading (Daniel 6:10)
 2. Praying out loud (Acts 4:23-31)
 3. Praising and thanking the Lord as we begin to pray (Psalm 22:3, 34:1-3)
 4. Confessing our sins to the Lord so He will listen to us (Psalm 66:17, 1 John 1:9)
 5. Praying to know God’s will even as we pray (1 John 5:14)
 6. Praying earnestly and intensely (Acts 12:5, James 5:16)
 7. Asking the Lord to meet specific need in our and others lives (James 4:2)
 8. Praying persistently (Matthew 7:7, Luke 11:5-13)
 9. Praying expectantly (Luke 11:5-13, James 5:16)
 10. Listening for the Lord to speak to us (1 Samuel 3:1-14)
 - “Every success I’ve ever experienced in my life has been either a direct or indirect result of prayer.” (E. M. Bounds)

- “The power of prayer can never be overrated. They who cannot serve God by preaching need not regret. If a man can but pray, he can do anything. He who knows how to overcome with God in prayer has Heaven and earth at his disposal.” (Charles Spurgeon)
- “History belongs to the intercessors – those who believe and pray the future into being.” (Walter Wink)

Dialoguing With The Lord Brings:

- **HIS PEACE INTO OUR HEARTS**

- *“Don’t worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done. If you do this, you will experience God’s peace, which is far more wonderful than the human mind can understand.”* (Philippians 4:6-7 NLT)

- **HIS POWER INTO OUR LIVES**

- *“All the believers were united as they lifted their voices in prayer: . . . ‘O Lord, send your healing power; may miraculous signs and wonders be done through the name of your holy servant Jesus.’ After this prayer, the building where they were meeting shook, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit.”* (Acts 4:24-31 NLT)

- **HIS PLANS INTO OUR MINDS**

- *“The LORD said to Joshua, ‘I have given you Jericho, its king, and all its mighty warriors. Your entire army is to march around the city once a day for six days. Seven priests will walk ahead of the Ark, each carrying a ram’s horn. On the seventh day you are to march around the city seven times, with the priests blowing the horns. When you hear the priests give one long blast on the horns, have all the people give a mighty shout. Then the walls of the city will collapse, and the people can charge straight into the city.”* (Joshua 6:2-5 NLT)
- **The Lord has succinct, strategic and successful plans for His people that we can know and follow (Jeremiah 29:11).**
- *“Trust in the LORD with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding. Seek His will in all you do, and He will direct your paths.”* (Proverbs 3:5-6 NLT)

- **Question – “What steps can I take to better communicate with the Lord so that I can know His plans for my life?”**

“OVERCOMING OUR OBSTACLES” REQUIRES:

COMPLYING WITH THE LORD (Joshua 6:6-11)

- **The Lord always expects obedience from His people.**
 - *“To obey is better than sacrifice.”* (1 Samuel 15:22 NKJV)
 - JESUS – *“If you love Me, obey My commandments.”* (Jn 14:15)
- **Question – “Why does the Lord ask us to do unusual things?”**

Sometimes The Lord Asks Us To Do Unusual Things Because:

- **HE IS TESTING US**
 - **Our job is not to understand all God is doing, but to undertake His work.**
 - **Many people want God's blessings but have no desire to live by God's Word.**
 - **Obedience to the Lord is a key to victory in our lives!**
 - JESUS – *“Those who obey My commandments are the ones who love Me. And because they love Me, My Father will love them, and I will love them.”* (John 14:21 NLT)
 - *“The (power of the) Holy Spirit is given by God to those who obey Him.”* (Acts 5:32 Watson translation)
 - **We are to obey the Lord even when the world is ridiculing us.**
 - **The world will never understand our obedience to the Lord (John 15:19).**
 - JESUS - *“God will bless you when people insult you, mistreat you, and tell all kinds of evil lies about you because of Me. Be happy and excited! You will have a great reward in heaven.”* (Mt 5:11-12)
- **HE IS DEVELOPING US**
 - **God wants us at the point in our lives where we recognize we can't do anything to change ourselves or our situation unless He shows up.**
 - JESUS – *“Apart from Me you can do nothing.”* (John 15:5 ESV)
 - **Sometimes the Lord keeps our problems (our “Jericho's”) before us until we clearly understand that our only hope is in the power and provision of God.**
 - *“Jesus then asked His twelve disciples if they were going to leave Him. Simon Peter answered, ‘Lord, there is no one else that we can go to! Your words give eternal life. We have faith in you, and we are sure that You are God's Holy One.’”* (John 6:66-68 CEV)
- **Question – “Why do I need to be committed to obeying the Lord, and what steps can I take to better comply with His Word and will for my life?”**

“OVERCOMING OUR OBSTACLES” REQUIRES:

WAITING ON THE LORD (Joshua 6:12-15)

- **“Waiting on the Lord” is an activity we must engage in when facing big obstacles.**
- **Question – “Why do I find it difficult to ‘wait on the Lord’?”**
- **God is never in a hurry, but He's always on time.**
 - *“The Lord is a faithful God. Blessed on those who wait on His help.”* (Isaiah 30:18 NLT)
- **The Lord's delays are not the Lord's denials.**

- **Many people miss the victory because they quit just before the victory occurs.**
- *“Those who wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.” (Isaiah 40:31 NKJV)*
- **Question – “What steps do I need to take to better ‘wait on the Lord’ in my life?”**

“OVERCOMING OUR OBSTACLES” REQUIRES:

TRUSTING IN THE LORD (Joshua 6:16, 20)

- *‘When the people heard the sound of the rams’ horns, they shouted as loud as they could. Suddenly, the walls of Jericho collapsed, and the Israelites charged straight into the town and captured it.’ (Josh 6:20)*
- **Our “obstacles” or “Jericho’s” are not the problem – we are the problem.**
- **God will enable us to overcome all of our “problems” when we put our faith and confidence in Him!**
- *“It was by faith that the people of Israel marched around Jericho for seven days, and the walls came crashing down.” (Hebrews 11:30)*
- **We must always have faith in the person, plan, promises and power of God!**
- **Question – “How do we get faith in our lives?”**
- **Faith comes from remembering who God is to us, what God has done for us, and what the Lord promises to us.**
 - *“God has dealt to each one a measure of faith.” (Rom 12:3)*
 - **JESUS** – *“I tell you the truth, if you had faith even as small as a mustard seed, you could say to this mountain, ‘Move from here to there,’ and it would move. Nothing would be impossible.” (Mt 17:20)*
- **Our “walls” will fall and our “obstacles” overcome when we say: “I’ll see it when I believe it!”**
- **The Lord wants to perform great works in and through our lives, but for those great works to occur we must overcome our obstacles by God’s power and provision (Joshua 6:16, 20).**
- **A lot of people are problem conscious – when they need to become God-conscious (Joshua 5:13-15).**
- **We will experience victory when we stop trying to get the Lord on our side, and we instead determine to get on God’s side (Joshua 5:13-15).**
- **Question – “What is the Lord primarily communicating to me through this message?”**

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