

“How to Push Through Obstacles”

You will no doubt face obstacles in your ministry. Here are three things to keep in mind when you face them:

1. Accept that obstacles are a part of service.

“Open Doors” in the NT were primarily God-given opportunities for people to be reached with the gospel. It DOES NOT refer to a path without obstacles! When we serve we are engaged in a battle. Paul encounter TONS of obstacles as he traveled:

1 Corinthians 16:8

⁸But I will stay on at Ephesus until Pentecost, ⁹because a great door for effective work has opened to me, and there are many who oppose me.

Adjustment: Evaluate an opportunity by its God-given potential to reach people, NOT on the basis of the obstacles.

2. Let vision and passion propel your ministry.

Our passion and vision for a project can propel us past any obstacles. If we don't fully understand the significance of what we are doing, obstacles can become magnified to the point in which they can discourage us.

Nehemiah met obstacles and people who opposed him as he attempted to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem:

Nehemiah 2:17

¹⁷Then I said to them, “You see the trouble we are in: Jerusalem lies in ruins, and its gates have been burned with fire. Come, let us rebuild the wall of Jerusalem, and we will no longer be in disgrace.”

Adjustment: Make sure you see the vision before you set out to serve.

3. Many obstacles can be overcome through simple hard work.

It is human nature to take the “path of least resistance,” to resist change and to slip subtly into complacency and comfort. Know that hard work is a part of service. Obstacles can actually increase your endurance and fortitude:

Colossians 1:28-29

²⁸We proclaim him, admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone perfect in Christ. ²⁹To this end I labor, struggling with all his energy, which so powerfully works in me.

Adjustment: Stay emotionally, spiritually and physically fit, recognizing that we need to simply push through some obstacles.