

Facing Life's Obstacles

Charles Stanley

I. Introduction.

- A. Text: Joshua 6.
- B. All of us face obstacles that seem insurmountable.
- C. Every obstacle is subject to the power of God. (Genesis 18, Jeremiah 32:17-26)

II. We allow our unbelief to become a defeat.

- A. We narrow our focus to the obstacle.
- B. We look at the obstacle only within the scope of our own resources.
- C. Obstacles are opportunities for God to demonstrate His awesome power.
- D. Often times God is already working behind the obstacle. (Joshua 2:1)

III. God's expectations in the midst of obstacles.

- A. God will require of us only what we are able to do.
- B. God will often require spiritual preparation before He removes the obstacle we face.
- C. The right response to God is always, "What do you want to say to your servant?" (Joshua 5:13)
 - 1. We should always keep a diary of what God says to us.
 - 2. What God says to us is our spiritual heritage.
 - 3. Christians should not relegate encounters with God to the Old Testament. (Exodus 3:4)
- C. God often requires some act of obedience on our part, some repentance of sin and prayer.
- D. Often times God will give assurance of the removal of an obstacle even before He does it. (Joshua 6:1)

IV. How to remove obstacles.

- A. God will often give us clear instructions about what we are to do.
- B. Three requirements in God's instructions.
 - 1. Courage to obey.
 - 2. Faith to believe that He will do what He said He would do.

3. Patience to do it in His timing.

C. God's instructions must be obeyed precisely.

D. Expect God to be glorified.

Application questions:

1. What are some obstacles you have sought God to remove?

2. Will God always remove your obstacle? Explain.

3. What kind of things can we expect with regard to the removal of obstacles based upon God's work in Joshua?
