



Moving the Obstacle

Defining an Obstacle:

Something that blocks you so that movement, going forward, or action is prevented or made more difficult:

Types of Personal Life Obstacles:

Painful relationship break-ups; Death of a Loved One; Being Bullied; Social Media Shame; Rape; Labels; Substance Abuse; Domestic Violence Victims; Fearing that our Loved one or Friend maybe in Hell, Terminal Diseases; Loss of Employment; Seeking Help for Mental, Alcohol, Drugs, Gambling, Pornography, Sexual Identity; Outside relationship affairs; Getting Sexually Abused by a Parent or Step-Parent, Sexual Abuse by a Teacher; Mental Abuse by anyone; Life Health Changing Events; Paralysis, Loss of Limb, Loss of Sight, ALS, Cancer, Being given a diagnosis that your time here on earth is limited; Re-establishing relationships with family or friends, Going back to School, Turning a Corner from working in a job, that is unlawful, to a job that is lawful, and coming Home to Jesus.

Religious Obstacles:

Satan:

The Hebrew word satan means "an adversary, one who resists."

"Satan" occurs thirty-six times in the New Testament, eighteen of that number in the Gospels and Acts.

The Greek term satanas [Satana''] is a loan word from the Hebrew Old Testament, and twenty-eight of the total occurrences are accompanied by the definite article.

Often in the Gospel accounts Jesus is in contact with Satan directly or indirectly.

Jesus was tempted by Satan:

Mark 1:13 (NIV)

13 and he was in the wilderness forty days, being tempted by Satan. He was with the wild animals, and angels attended him.

In the famous "Beelzebub controversy" Jesus made clear his intention to drive Satan out of people's lives and to destroy his sovereignty:

Matt 12:26 (NIV)

26 If Satan drives out Satan, he is divided against himself. How then can his kingdom stand?

Mark 3:23 (NIV)

23 So Jesus called them over to him and began to speak to them in parables: "How can Satan drive out Satan?"

Mark 3:26 (NIV)

26 And if Satan opposes himself and is divided, he cannot stand; his end has come.

Luke 11:18 (NIV)

18 If Satan is divided against himself, how can his kingdom stand? I say this because you claim that I drive out demons by Beelzebul.

He liberated a woman "whom Satan (had) kept bound for eighteen long years":

Luke 13:16 (NIV)

16 Then should not this woman, a daughter of Abraham, whom Satan has kept bound for eighteen long years, be set free on the Sabbath day from what bound her?"

Paul spoke of his being sent to turn people "from the power of Satan to God," and that the works of the "lawless one (were) in accordance with the work of Satan, " in doing sham miracles, signs, and wonders, Christ will come, he wrote, to overthrow that agent of Satan.

Acts 26:18 (NIV)

18 to open their eyes and turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God, so that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me.'

2 Thess 2:9 (NIV)

9 The coming of the lawless one will be in accordance with how Satan works. He will use all sorts of displays of power through signs and wonders that serve the lie,

While the activity of Satan is carried out in "the world" (i.e., among those who do not acknowledge Christ as Lord), he also works against the followers of Christ.

He influenced Peter's thinking about Jesus to the extent that Jesus said to his disciple, "Get behind me, Satan!"

Matt 16:23 (NIV)

23 Jesus turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; you do not have in mind the concerns of God, but merely human concerns."

He asked for all the disciples in order to severely test them:

Luke 22:31 (NIV)

31 "Simon, Simon, Satan has asked to sift all of you as wheat.

Satan "entered" Judas Iscariot:

Luke 22:3 (NIV)

3 Then Satan entered Judas, called Iscariot, one of the Twelve.

Satan "filled the heart" of Ananias:

Acts 5:3 (NIV)

3 Then Peter said, "Ananias, how is it that Satan has so filled your heart that you have lied to the Holy Spirit and have kept for yourself some of the money you received for the land?"

Believers can be tempted by Satan due to a lack of self-control in sexual matters:

1 Cor 7:5 (NIV)

5 Do not deprive each other except perhaps by mutual consent and for a time, so that you may devote yourselves to prayer. Then come together again so that Satan will not tempt you because of your lack of self-control.

Satan can even masquerade as "an angle of light" to accomplish his purposes:

2 Cor 11:14 (NIV)

14 And no wonder, for Satan himself masquerades as an angel of light.

He tormented Paul by means of "a thorn in (his) flesh":

2 Cor 12:7 (NIV)

7 or because of these surpassingly great revelations. Therefore, in order to keep me from becoming conceited, I was given a thorn in my flesh, a messenger of Satan, to torment me.

Some people even turn away from their faith to follow Satan:

1 Tim 5:15 (NIV)

15 Some have in fact already turned away to follow Satan.

Satan opposes the proclamation of the gospel, snatching away the seed (the word) that was sown in people's hearts:

Mark 4:15 (NIV)

15 Some people are like seed along the path, where the word is sown. As soon as they hear it, Satan comes and takes away the word that was sown in them.

Luke 8:12 (NIV)

12 Those along the path are the ones who hear, and then the devil comes and takes away the word from their hearts, so that they may not believe and be saved.

He also "stopped" Paul from traveling to Thessalonica:

1 Thess 2:18 (NIV)

18 For we wanted to come to you certainly I, Paul, did, again and again but Satan blocked our way.

Satan is regarded in the New Testament as "master of death and destruction, " who carries out God's wrath against sinners.

Twice we read of persons "handed over to Satan" for spiritual discipline by the church:

Dealing With a Case of Incest

1 Cor 5:1-5 (NIV)

5 It is actually reported that there is sexual immorality among you, and of a kind that even pagans do not tolerate: A man is sleeping with his father's wife.

2 And you are proud! Shouldn't you rather have gone into mourning and have put out of your fellowship the man who has been doing this?

3 For my part, even though I am not physically present, I am with you in spirit. As one who is present with you in this way, I have already passed judgment in the name of our Lord Jesus on the one who has been doing this.

4 So when you are assembled and I am with you in spirit, and the power of our Lord Jesus is present,

5 hand this man over to Satan for the destruction of the flesh, so that his spirit may be saved on the day of the Lord.

1 Tim 1:19-20 (NIV)

19 holding on to faith and a good conscience, which some have rejected and so have suffered shipwreck with regard to the faith.

20 Among them are Hymenaeus and Alexander, whom I have handed over to Satan to be taught not to blaspheme.

HYMENAËUS *hī' mə ne' əs* (Ἰμμέναιος, G5628, *hymenael*, *pertaining to - Hymen*, the god of marriage).

A heretical teacher at Ephesus, an opponent of Paul, mentioned with Alexander in 1 Timothy 1:20 and with Philetus in 2 Timothy 2:17.

The same man is doubtless in view in both passages.

That he is mentioned first in both places implies that he was the leader among these false teachers.

Hymenaeus and Alexander were among those who, rejecting conscience, had made shipwreck of their faith:

1 Tim 1:20 (NIV):

20 Among them are Hymenaeus and Alexander, whom I have handed over to Satan to be taught not to blaspheme.

(Paul's delivery of them to Satan has been much discussed)

1 Cor 5:5 (NIV):

5 hand this man over to Satan for the destruction of the flesh, so that his spirit may be saved on the day of the Lord. Some take the meaning to be simply excommunication from the church, thereby placing them back into the world, the sphere of Satan.

Others think it rather signifies supernaturally inflicted bodily punishment.

A combination of both views may be involved.

Job 2:6-7 (NIV):

6 The Lord said to Satan, “Very well, then, he is in your hands; but you must spare his life.”

7 So Satan went out from the presence of the Lord and afflicted Job with painful sores from the soles of his feet to the crown of his head.

1 Cor 11:30 (NIV):

30 That is why many among you are weak and sick, and a number of you have fallen asleep.

Rev. 2:22 (NIV):

22 So I will cast her on a bed of suffering, and I will make those who commit adultery with her suffer intensely, unless they repent of her ways.

Friends, that’s more than mere excommunication!

Moreover, it comes into focus the spirit, meaning, and consequences, of these acts, when compared with the cases, of apostolic discipline in **Acts 5:1-11; 13:11.**

Acts 5:1-11 (NIV):

Ananias and Sapphira

5 Now a man named Ananias, together with his wife Sapphira, also sold a piece of property.

Ananias: "whom Jehovah has graciously given"

Sapphira: Beautiful; Sapphire

2 With his wife's full knowledge he kept back part of the money for himself, but brought the rest and put it at the apostles' feet.

3 Then Peter said, "Ananias, how is it that Satan has so filled your heart that you have lied to the Holy Spirit and have kept for yourself some of the money you received for the land?"

4 Didn't it belong to you before it was sold? And after it was sold, wasn't the money at your disposal? What made you think of doing such a thing? You have not lied just to human beings but to God."

5 When Ananias heard this, he fell down and died. And great fear seized all who heard what had happened.

6 Then some young men came forward, wrapped up his body, and carried him out and buried him.

7 About three hours later his wife came in, not knowing what had happened.

8 Peter asked her, "Tell me, is this the price you and Ananias got for the land?" "Yes," she said, "that is the price."

9 Peter said to her, “How could you conspire to test the Spirit of the Lord? Listen! The feet of the men who buried your husband are at the door, and they will carry you out also.”

10 At that moment she fell down at his feet and died. Then the young men came in and, finding her dead, carried her out and buried her beside her husband.

11 Great fear seized the whole church and all who heard about these events.

Acts 13:11 (NIV):

11 Now the hand of the Lord is against you. You are going to be blind for a time, not even able to see the light of the sun.”

Immediately mist and darkness came over him, and he groped about, seeking someone to lead him by the hand

The discipline, whatever its precise nature, was remedial in its intention, “that they may learn not to blaspheme,”

i.e. that they may cease their railing against the true Gospel.

Col 1:13 (NIV)

13 For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves,

Heb 2:14-15 (NIV)

14 Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might break the power of him who holds the power of death—that is, the devil—

15 and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death.

In other cases, Satan attacked the disciples of Jesus by "sifting" them:

Luke 22:31(NIV)

31 "Simon, Simon, Satan has asked to sift all of you as wheat.

It may have meant to test their faith (with the intent of destroying it), or, it may have meant "to separate off the rubbish" according to -

(I. H. Marshall).

In any case, Satan was up to no good.

He was able to "enter" Judas Iscariot:

Luke 22:3 (NIV)

3 Then Satan entered Judas, called Iscariot, one of the Twelve.

John 13:27 (NIV)

27 As soon as Judas took the bread, Satan entered into him.

So Jesus told him, "What you are about to do, do quickly."

Resulting in that disciple becoming a betrayer of his Master.

Peter's sifting may have brought about his threefold denial of Jesus.

Facing a Major Life Obstacle

Matthew 17:20 (NIV)

20 He replied, "Because you have so little faith. Truly I tell you, if you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you."

Ephesians 4:14 (NIV)

14 Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of people in their deceitful scheming.

1 John 5:11-13

11 And this is the testimony: God has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son.

12 Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life.

Concluding Affirmations

13 I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life.

John 14:6-7

6 Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

7 If you really know me, you will know my Father as well. From now on, you do know him and have seen him."

John 6:35

And Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life. He who comes to Me shall never hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst.

John 6:40

And this is the will of Him who sent Me, that everyone who sees the Son and believes in Him may have everlasting life; and I will raise him up at the last day."

Friends, not matter what Obstacle, we are confronted with in this life, our choices are to either to follow Jesus or satan.

We can spend our last days sulking, or accepting Christ as our Lord and Saviour, and preaching and teaching Jesus and wining souls for Christ, or you can follow satan, and his colorful, forgiving, schemes, and lies, that will lead You straight to Hell !

You can stay home because you have paralysis, or you can go to a Physical Rehabilitation Center, at a - Hospital and be an inspiration, for those that are just beginning there journey through the Road that you have traveled and give them the encouragement they need, and in the process you can change the lives of the hopeless to the Hopeful !

You can have a Terminal Disease Diagnosis, and Sulk, or Pray, and be healed and live many more years, like my mother

Or believe the lies of satan, and wither and go to sleep alone.

I remind you that Jesus, said if we had the faith of a mustard seed, that we could Move Mountains ...

But Life's Obstacles are much harder, when the "person," doesn't know Jesus.

Because when You don't know Jesus, and I don't mean just hearing about HIM, but having a bonafide relationship with HIM, You Have:

Hope:

We find the word Hope: (97) OT & (83) NT:

intransitive verb

To cherish a desire with anticipation : to want something to happen or be true
hopes for a promotion, hoping for the best, I hope so.

To TRUST

transitive verb

To desire with expectation of obtainment or fulfillment

I hope she remembers.

I hope to be invited

To expect with confidence : TRUST, Your mother is doing well, I hope.

Hopeless:

Having no expectation of good or success

Despairing: feeling *hopeless* and alone;

i.e. doctors say his condition is *hopeless*:

not susceptible to remedy or cure

Incapable of redemption or improvement, giving no reason to expect good or success,

Giving no ground for hope : DESPERATE

The situation looked *hopeless*.

Incapable of solution, management, or accomplishment :

IMPOSSIBLE

a *hopeless* task

Friends, all of us know that in this life, we will all have our individual battles, just all of our brothers and sisters, that are mentioned in the Bible also had.

But as Christians, we all have the Eternal Hope and Guarantees that we find in:

The Ultimate Hope and Guarantee:

John 3:16 (NIV):

16 For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

Friends, all of us will give up the ghost and either we Go with Jesus Above or with satan below ...

How to accept Jesus, just say this prayer?:

Lord Jesus, I ask you this day to please come into my life and to please forgive all of my sins, and that you would become my Lord & Savior!

Please Remember :

**You can't buy your way into Heaven and You can't
Buy, Your way out of Hell !**

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