

**“Overcoming Obstacles”  
Joshua 6**

**Big Idea – God is bigger than every obstacle I will face.**

Have you encountered any obstacles in your life lately? Everyone runs into a difficult challenge every now and then. Some people become discouraged, hang their heads, and never realize that this is a blessing from God.

God gives us strategies to deal with every obstacle we face. Joshua 6 helps us understand God’s plan for handling difficult times by following the principles of this Scripture passage.

**1. Everyone faces obstacles that seem insurmountable.**

(Job 5:7)

*“But man is born unto trouble, As the sparks fly upward.” Job 5:7*

health issues, financial difficulties, or relationship problems. Every area of life, at some time, will present problems that make it seem impossible for us to move forward. It is easy to become discouraged and simply give up.

However, God’s promises are very clear and very personal. When we know that a goal is part of His will, we can also know that He has a way to achieve it.

**2. Every obstacle we face is subject to the power of God.**

(Genesis 18:14; Jeremiah 32:17; 32:27; Matthew 19:26)

Sometimes we look at the obstacles and wonder when God will take action and give us the victory. We can remember this one awesome truth: that no challenge is greater than His power. No matter how great the problem may be, God is greater still. All through God’s Word He tells us this.

*“Is anything too hard for the Lord?” Genesis 18:14*

*“You made heaven and earth by your great power...Lord God...there is nothing too hard for you.” Jeremiah 32:17*

*“Behold, I am the LORD, the God of all flesh; is anything too difficult for Me?” (Jeremiah 32:27)*

*“With men this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.” Matthew 19:26*

### **3. Why we are discouraged by obstacles.**

1. We focus on the obstacle rather than on God. The longer we pay attention to a problem, the greater the problem seems. Only when our minds are set on God and His awesome power do we see the problem in its true perspective.
  2. We focus on our own resources instead of God's. Our goal seems impossible because we know our own limitations. Almighty God has no limitations, and His resources are infinite.
  3. We focus on the obstacle instead of the opportunity.
- In the light of God's perfect plan, every crisis is a new chance to glorify God.

### **4. God is at work in our obstacles even when we're not aware of it.**

(Isaiah 64:4; Psalm 27:14; Psalm 37:7-9)

It is always a mistake when we believe that God is not working. All the time His hand is moving, accomplishing His will on His schedule. The mature believer knows that it is enough to trust God to take care of our problems; we don't have to see all that He does. He works deliberately, lovingly, and carefully to carry out His purposes in life.

God promises in Isaiah 64:4 that *He "acts in behalf of the one who waits for Him."*

One of the wisest things we can do is to learn the principle of waiting upon the Lord.

*"Wait on the Lord, be of good courage and He will strengthen your heart. I say again, Wait on the Lord." Psalm 27:14*

*Rest in the LORD, and wait patiently for Him; Do not fret because of him who prospers in his way, Because of the man who brings wicked schemes to pass.*

*8 Don't get angry, don't get upset. Don't fret--it only causes trouble.*

*9 For evildoers shall be cut off; But those who wait on the LORD, They shall inherit the earth." (Psalm 37:7-9)*

### **5. God often requires some preparation on our part.**

(Joshua 5; Proverbs 28:13)

Joshua 5 describes the preparations that God commanded Israel to take before attacking Jericho. All the males born in the wilderness after the children of Israel left Egypt were not circumcised. So God required all the males uncircumcised to be circumcised – it represented their special identities as God's people.

Sometimes He wants us to be obedient in some area. We need to hear from God and discover what He wants us to do.

Sometimes He wants us to repent of some sin. There may be something in your life that you need to let God cleanse before He will remove the obstacle.

*Proverbs 28:13 "If you hide your sins, you will not succeed. If you confess and reject them, you will receive mercy."*

Like Joshua, we must learn to meditate so we can experience the miraculous presence of God.

*Joshua 1:8 "Study this Book of Instruction continually. Meditate on it day and night so you will be sure to obey everything written in it. Only then will you prosper and succeed in all you do." KJV – "...have good success."*

## **6. God will give us assurance of the removal of these obstacles.**

God assures us by speaking to our hearts. One of the primary works of the Holy Spirit is to reveal the will of the Father. The Spirit lives within us and guides us to walk in God's will. Sometimes God will make His will crystal clear, while other times He will provide a little direction, gradually strengthening that guidance until we know His path. He tells us to take a step in a certain direction, then He waits for our obedience.

## **7 God will give us very clear instruction.**

(Psalm 37:5; Proverbs 3:5,6; 16:3)

God did not tell Joshua to go create a battle plan; He delivered one in perfect detail. His plan is not general and vague, but specific and personal. He wants us to abide with Him so closely that we hear a clear Word from Him about His will for every day and every decision. We should never be afraid to ask God to guide us clearly and powerfully, for that is exactly what He wants to do in our lives.

*Psalm 37:5 "Commit thy way unto the LORD; trust also in him; and he shall bring it to pass."*

## **8. What are the real reasons we refuse to do God's will?**

(Joshua 1:2-9; Isa. 40:31; 2 Cor. 5:7)

God's guidance is so wonderful and His power is unlimited, so why do so many believers fail to depend upon Him every day?

We need:

1. courage. Even when our faith is strong, we must be brave when we obey God and take our stand against the enemy. Three times God told Joshua, "Be strong and courageous" Joshua 1:2-9

2. patience. We must learn to wait upon the Lord, and trust in His timing. Isa. 40:31

3. faith. We must learn to walk by faith and not by sight. 2 Cor. 5:7

**9. God will remove every obstacle that hinders His will and plan for your life.**  
(Joshua 6:20)

We can have perfect faith that He will never fail us. When you make a complete commitment of your will to His, He may provide a test. He may remove something that you feel you must have.

Will you have the faith to trust only in Him? Do you really believe that He will remove every obstacle, and that you need nothing else on earth but His presence and power?