



# Living out Your **FAITH**

Overcome Obstacles through Faith, 3:1-5:18

“If you find a path with no obstacles, it probably does not lead anywhere.” *Frank A. Clark*

“The struggle of life is one of our greatest blessings. It makes us patient, sensitive, and Godlike. It teaches us that although the world is full of suffering, it is also full of the overcoming of it.”  
*Helen Keller*



# Four Basic Responses to Obstacles

1. Give up because the obstacle seems too great to overcome.
2. Avoid it hoping it will go away.
3. Allow obstacles to consume all your time and energy
4. Keep your eyes on the Lord and let Him lead you through it.



# Background of Nehemiah's Faith through Obstacles

- How Nehemiah overcame the obstacle of rebuilding the walls
  - He created a plan that was easy to understand
  - He broke the task down into smaller parts
  - He created teams responsible for each section of the wall
  - He gave them ownership of the task
  - He encouraged them to celebrate the results of their labor



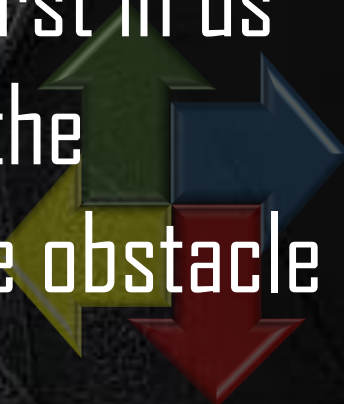
# Background of Nehemiah's Faith through Obstacles

- Obstacles Nehemiah and the people of Israel faced
  - Ridicule from their enemies, 4:5-8
  - Discouraged by exhaustion as they rebuilt the wall and the threat of their enemies, 4:10-12
  - The Jews were exploited by their own leaders, 5:1-5
- How Nehemiah overcame the obstacles
  - He armed them for battle, and organized the people to work together efficiently, 4:13-14
  - He reminded them of the power of God, 4:14-15
  - He exposed the leaders and ordered restitution, 5:8-11



# The Nature of Obstacles

- Obstacles come from many directions – some we create ourselves, some from those who oppose us, and some from negative people around us who lack vision or tell us what they think we need to do
- Obstacles have the potential to bring out the best or worst in us – depending on our relationship with God, how we view the obstacle, and our ability to wait on God to overcome the obstacle



# How to Overcome Obstacles

- Stay focused on what God has called you to do – don't compare your life with others and don't be discouraged by those who think they know best
- Identify your obstacles, break them down, and address them individually
- Place your faith and trust in God to lead you to victory
- Pray that God will see you through and feed on the Scripture
- Be patient and let God lead you through the obstacle



# Bottom Line

Obstacles can be opportunities for God to grow you in your faith, strengthen your character, and be used by God to demonstrate His power, peace, and joy through you.

