

**God help me to see what I cannot see.  
God give me the vision necessary to look forward not backward.  
God give me a youthful perspective.  
God adjust what needs to be adjusted.  
God help me to focus on the opportunities not the obstacles.**

**The difference between an obstacle and an opportunity is our attitude toward it. Every opportunity has a difficulty, and every difficulty has an opportunity." J. Sidlow Baxter**

**How well do you seek to find opportunities during obstacles?**

**Obstacles become opportunities when we are willing to make personal sacrifices.**

*Paul came also to Derbe and to Lystra. And a disciple was there, named Timothy, the son of a Jewish woman who was a believer, but his father was a Greek, and he was well spoken of by the brethren who were in Lystra and Iconium.  
Acts 16:1-2*

*Paul wanted this man to go with him; and he took him and circumcised him because of the Jews who were in those parts, for they all knew that his father was a Greek. Acts 16:3*

*Now while they were passing through the cities, they were delivering the decrees which had been decided upon by the apostles and elders who were in Jerusalem, for them to observe. Acts 16:4*

*So, the churches were being strengthened in the faith, and were increasing in number daily. Acts 16:5*

**Obstacles become opportunities when we are sensitive to the working of the Holy Spirit.**

*They passed through the Phrygian and Galatian region, having been forbidden by the Holy Spirit to speak the word in Asia; and after they came to Mysia, they were trying to go into Bithynia, and the Spirit of Jesus did not permit them.  
Acts 16:6-7*

*And passing by Mysia, they came down to Troas. A vision appeared to Paul in the night: a man of Macedonia was standing and appealing to him, and saying, "Come over to Macedonia and help us." Acts 16:8-9*

*When he had seen the vision, immediately we sought to go into Macedonia, concluding that God had called us to preach the gospel to them. Acts 16:10*

**Obstacles become opportunities when we find the balance between patience and persistence.**

*So, putting out to sea from Troas, we ran a straight course to Samothrace, and on the day following to Neapolis; and from there to Philippi, which is a leading city of the district of Macedonia, a Roman colony; and we were staying in this city for some days. Acts 16:11-12*

*And on the Sabbath day we went outside the gate to a riverside, where we were supposing that there would be a place of prayer; and we sat down and began speaking to the women who had assembled. Acts 16:13*

*A woman named Lydia, from the city of Thyatira, a seller of purple fabrics, a worshiper of God, was listening; and the Lord opened her heart to respond to the things spoken by Paul. Acts 16:14*

**Obstacles become opportunities when we gain perspective on those around us.**

*It happened that as we were going to the place of prayer, a slave-girl having a spirit of divination met us, who was bringing her masters much profit by fortune-telling. Acts 16:16*

*Following after Paul and us, she kept crying out, saying, "These men are bond-servants of the Most High God, who are proclaiming to you the way of salvation." Acts 16:17*

*She continued doing this for many days. But Paul was greatly annoyed, and turned and said to the spirit, "I command you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her!" And it came out at that very moment. Acts 16:18*

**Obstacles become opportunities when we embrace the purpose in the obstacle.**

*But about midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns of praise to God, and the prisoners were listening to them; and suddenly there came a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison house were shaken; and immediately all the doors were opened, and everyone's chains were unfastened. Acts 16:25-26*

*When the jailer awoke and saw the prison doors opened, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself, supposing that the prisoners had escaped. Acts 16:27*

*But Paul cried out with a loud voice, saying, "Do not harm yourself, for we are all here!" Acts 16:28*

*And he called for lights and rushed in, and trembling with fear he fell down before Paul and Silas, and after he brought them out, he said, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" Acts 16:29-30*

**Nothing affects the lost worlds perspective of Christianity like how we deal with pain and suffering.**