

POSSESSING THE PROMISED LAND

OVERCOMING OBSTACLES WITH THE PROMISE KEEPER –Session 4

EQUIP AND INSPIRE

HEALTHCARE CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP AUSTRALIA

4th May 2024



Get Set

- When God calls someone, He knows what He is doing. The man who is called tends to look at the task ahead and the obstacles on the way rather than the one who is calling him
- A servant of God understands about God as he grows in Him and understands his own self as he grows with Him
- A successful mission is when the task is complete with the servant's soul intact

Obstacles on the way

- Ex:3:18-20

¹⁸ Then they will heed your voice; and you shall come, you and the elders of Israel, to the king of Egypt; and you shall say to him, 'The LORD God of the Hebrews has met with us; and now, please, let us go three days' journey into the wilderness, that we may sacrifice to the LORD our God.' ¹⁹ But I am sure that the king of Egypt will not let you go, no, not even by a mighty hand. ²⁰ So I will stretch out My hand and strike Egypt with all My wonders which I will do in its midst; and after that he will let you go.

Pharoah's behavior

- He was insecure with the Israelites and feared of their prosperity
- He went all out to suppress them
- He oppressed them
- He would not let them go but hold on in spite of powerful manifestations
- It is a common pattern throughout the bible
- Other examples
 - Abel
 - Joseph
 - David
 - Daniel
 - Zechariah
 - John the Baptist
 - Jesus
 - Stephen
 - Peter
 - Paul

Jesus' words

- **John 15:18-21**

- **18** “If the world hates you, you know that it hated Me before *it hated* you. **19** If you were of the world, the world would love its own. Yet because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you. **20** Remember the word that I said to you, ‘A servant is not greater than his master.’ If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you. If they kept My word, they will keep yours also. **21** But all these things they will do to you for My name’s sake, because they do not know Him who sent Me.

The obstacles are to be expected

- The partnership with God is not only experienced by the promises and presence of God but also confirmed by the resistance to His plans
- The obstacles are from different quarters in different dimensions
- The obstacles are against the plans and purposes of God and not personal
- They can be faced by individuals or as a group
- It could be resistance/rejection/ rebellion from inside
- It could be objection/ opposition/ oppression from outside
- The bible highlights such instances from Abel in Genesis to the church of Christ and Israel in Revelation
- Bible terms the obstacles as trials

HOW DO WE OVERCOME OBSTACLES

The warning and the assurance

- Matthew 10:16

“Behold, I send you out as sheep in the midst of wolves. Therefore be wise as serpents and harmless as doves.”

Ephesians 6:12

- **12** For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of [a]the darkness of this age, against spiritual *hosts* of wickedness in the heavenly *places*.

Wise as serpents and innocent as doves

- Mt 12:14-20
- Then the Pharisees went out and *plotted against Him, how they might destroy Him.*
- **15 But when Jesus knew it.** *He withdrew from there.* And great [c]multitudes followed Him, and He healed them all. **16** Yet He warned them not to make Him known, **17** that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Isaiah the prophet, saying:
- **18** “Behold! My Servant whom I have chosen.
My Beloved in whom My soul is well pleased!
I will put My Spirit upon Him.
And He will declare justice to the Gentiles.
19 He will not quarrel nor cry out.
Nor will anyone hear His voice in the streets.
20 A bruised reed He will not break.
And smoking flax He will not quench,
Till He sends forth justice to victory;

God's design of overcoming obstacles

- He does not remove them but He deals with them
- He uses the obstacles to teach, train and mold His servants and people
- He manifests His power and authority on the way
- At the end His kingdom prevails if His people remain faithful to the task

Acts 12: 1-24

- Peter's deliverance from prison
 - James was put to death but Peter was delivered
 - Peter was next on line
 - Church was praying
 - Peter was delivered miraculously
 - Herod was removed
 - The word of God continued to grow

Advise from Paul

(Eph 6:10-17)

- Be strong in the Lord and strength of His might
- Put on the full armour of God- Take up the full armour of God
Truth/ Righteousness/ preparation of the gospel of peace
Faith/Salvation/The word of God
- Stand firm
- Pray at all times

Comparison

Ideal

- Be strong in the Lord and the strength of His might
- Put on the armour of God
- Take up the armour of God
- Stand firm
- Pray – At all times/ in Spirit/Pray for all saints

Alternative

- Be strong in ourselves and our the strength our might
- Succeed at any cost
- Knowledge without application
- Fight
- Routine prayer-
Monotonous/ritualistic/Irrelevant

OVERCOMING OBSTACLES WITH THE PROMISE KEEPER

- The commission and the promise

Mt 28-19-20

¹⁹ Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, **I am with you always, even to the end of the age.**”

Obstacles – The world Vs Christ



I CAN DO ALL THINGS
THROUGH CHRIST WHICH
STRENGTHENETH ME.

Philippians 4:13

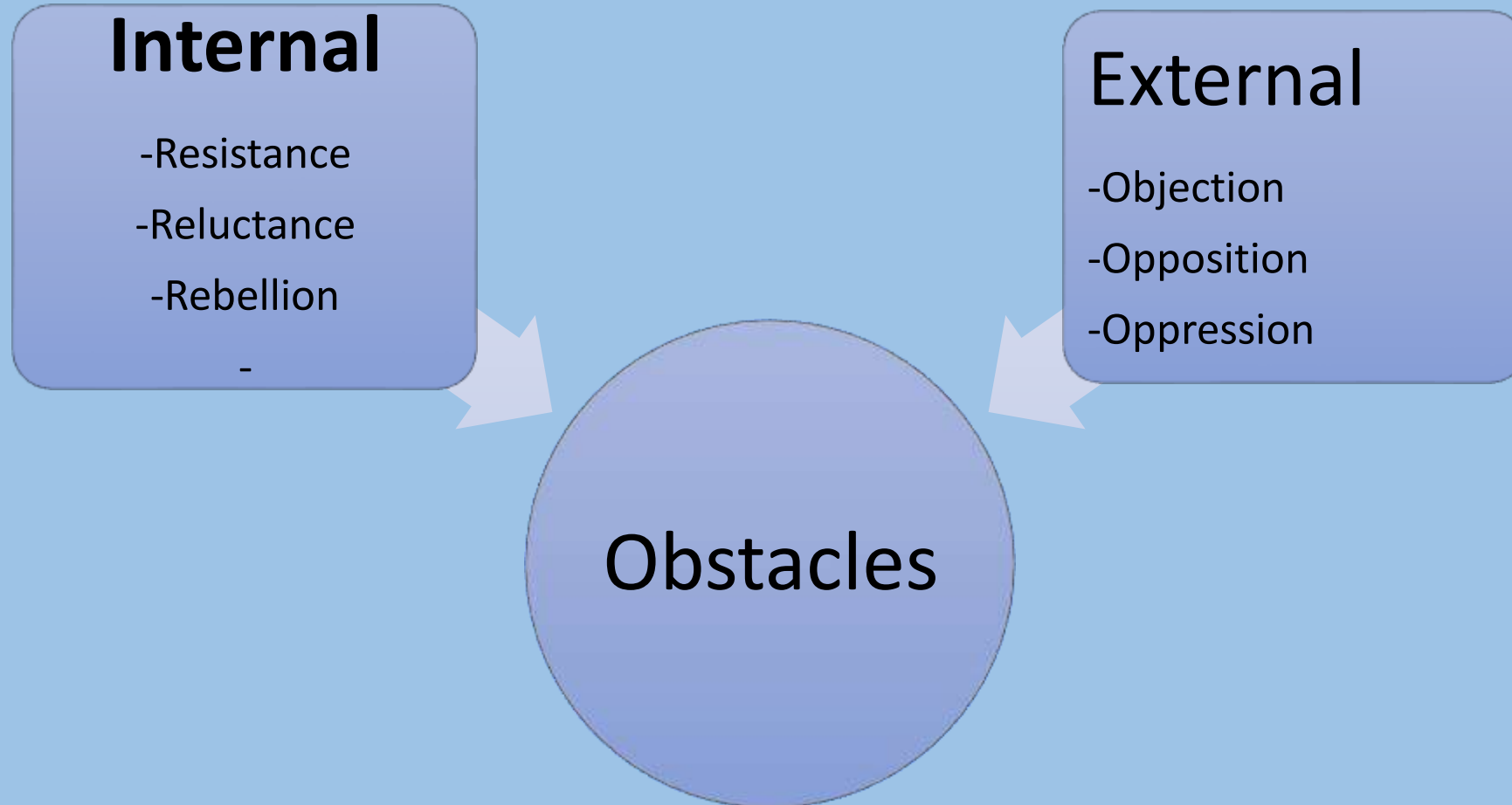
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Let us not miss the obstacles brought in by God

God protects His servants and people from pitfalls by changing circumstances and a sensitive soul and receptive group will change course and achieve the goal

SUMMARY



OUTLOOK ON OBSTACLES

- Be Aware- Expect it
- Preserve the soul
- Don't change the calling – Allow God to work
- Keep praying and extend prayer network
- Move when there is an opening
- Celebrate victories in the Lord with the body of Christ