

Beyond The Wall Part Four

Overcoming Obstacles and Opposition

Introduction

Read: 1 Peter 4:12-14

1. Walls exist for various reasons: to keep something in, to keep something out and to protect or hide something.
2. Staying within the walls is to remain in one's comfort zone, and that is not God's plan for us!
3. Going beyond the wall definitely means facing obstacles and opposition.
4. However, we should not allow these obstacles and opposition to stop us from reaching others. We need to push through and get the gospel out at all cost!
5. In today's lesson, we will learn how to press on in obeying God in the face of obstacles and opposition.

I. Expect Problems To Come Our Way

- A. **Advancing in obeying God is often met with resistance that discourages us from moving forward (v12).**
- B. **Pray for a new level of endurance to face obstacles and opposition.**
- C. **Memorize encouraging Bible verses and declare it over our lives when times get tough.**
E.g. Psalm 46:1-3, Proverbs 18:10, Isaiah 41:10, John 14:27, John 16:33, 2 Cor 12:9, etc.
- D. **Make a decision to resist and not retreat when faced with obstacles and opposition.**
E.g. Continue sharing the gospel despite discouragements, choosing to tell the truth even though telling a lie will make things more convenient, etc.

II. Be Glad In The Midst Of Difficulties

- A. **Find things to be joyful about, even in the face of difficulties, because it enables us to experience God's power in our lives (v13).**
- B. **Fix our attention on God instead of the problems we are facing by declaring God's power over our lives.**
- C. **Adopt the right understanding of trials and difficulties by internalizing the Word of God (Read James 1:2-4).**
 - *God puts us through tough times to transform our character and perfect us as His children.*
 - *Remove any mindset that thinks that God is out to make our lives difficult.*

D. Immerse ourselves in the presence of God to draw strength to conquer our problems.

E.g. Make it a point to attend every Cell Group, Youth service, Sunday service, prayer meeting, etc.

III. Carry The Name of Christ No Matter What

A. Regardless of whatever comes our way, choose to continue acknowledging Christ in our lives (v14).

B. Continue sharing the gospel regardless of the number of times we have been rejected.

C. Maintain high standards in our lives despite the ridicule we might receive from those around us.

E.g. Refusing to go to a club, cheat on a test, or engage in habits like smoking or drinking, etc.

D. Keep our eyes on the good things that God has prepared for us by prioritizing God's priorities.

Discuss!

Connect Group Leader to facilitate sharing with the Connect Group members.

- How can we encourage each other to press on in obeying God in the face of obstacles and opposition?

E.g. Pray together on a regular basis, encourage each other with Bible verses, share testimonies with one another, etc.

Conclusion

1. The only way for us to grow spiritually is not to run away from obstacles and opposition, but to overcome them!
2. Obstacles and opposition are not there to destroy us, but to make us better versions of ourselves.
3. When we face these obstacles and opposition with the right perspective, God can use us mightily to overcome them, and His glory can then be seen through our lives.

Prayer Points:

- a) Pray that we will have the right perspective of obstacles and opposition.
- b) Pray that we will have strength to face the trials that come our way when we choose to obey God.
- c) Pray for a new level of confidence that God will help us overcome tough times.

**Give opportunities for visitors to receive Christ and members to re-dedicate their lives to Jesus.*