

Overcoming the Obstacles

By, Alan W. Goff

I have come to believe that obstacles are a gift, for only from obstacles do we truly learn. Whether we learn what not to do or what to do, only a challenge will make us search for wisdom. The book of Proverbs says, "Wisdom is supreme; therefore get wisdom. Though it cost all you have, get understanding."

Wisdom is the ultimate weapon in overcoming obstacles. See the obstacle for what it is - a challenge and for every challenge wisdom will overcome. Wisdom is found through creativity. A creative solution for solving a challenge often comes simply by the reassessment of the obstacle itself. Once you are able to frame the problem in your mind, the solution often flows effortlessly.

Brainstorming is an excellent method for finding creative solutions to problems. By writing out the problem and then allowing your thought processes to pour onto the paper, you can gain a lot more clarity about the problem. If you don't give up and keep squeezing out ideas, eventually your mind will stumble upon a solution. Too many people give up on a problem when they fail to solve it initially. The creative mind has powers that would astonish you if you only gave it enough time and pressure to squeeze the creativity out.

Critical deadlines are also a part of the solution. Successfully setting deadlines ensures that you don't procrastinate, but also ensures that your goal is still achievable. Unfortunately, if you push up your deadline whenever you encounter an obstacle, it is likely you will never reach it.

Deadlines cease to have meaning if they are too flexible. If you change your deadlines upon minor difficulty or disturbance, the entire purpose of a deadline is lost. A deadline is provided to create an incredible sense of urgency, motivation and the action that comes from it. While a very difficult deadline may be stressful in the short term, overcoming that period of limited stress will ensure that you move to action. As Zig Ziglar says, "When you are hard on yourself, life is infinitely easier on you."