

Three Steps to Victory—Part 1

Overcoming Problems, Part 1

☑ **Target: Identify your problems and win victories!**

Key Verses

Hebrews 12:1b—Let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us.

Psalms 55:22a—Cast your burden on the Lord, and He shall sustain you.

Isaiah 40:31—But those who wait on the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.

Suggested Bible Reading

- Noah: Genesis 7–9
- Samuel: 1 Samuel 3
- Book of Jonah (4 chapters)

Other Recommended Reading

- Obstacles Are for Overcoming (Get Activated! book)*

Prayer and Praise: “Guide me”

○ Lord, grant me the blessing of greeting the coming day in peace. Help me in all things to rely upon Your holy will. In every hour of the day reveal Thy will to me. Bless my dealings with all who surround me. Teach me to treat all that comes to me throughout the day with peace of soul, and with firm conviction that Thy will governs us all. In all my deeds and words guide my thoughts and feelings. In unforeseen events let me not forget that all are sent by Thee. Teach me to act firmly and wisely, without embittering and embarrassing others. Give me strength to bear the fatigue of this coming day with all that it shall bring. Direct my will, teach me to pray, pray Thou Thyself in me.

—Drizdov Philaret, 1782–1867

Meditation: A Message from Jesus for Trying Times

Even though you stay by Me and you feed on My Words, you'll still go through some storms and there will still be difficulties. Staying near Me and staying in My Word won't take those away, but it will bring you through them! My Words are like a wonderful instrument that can be used in so many ways. When you're stuck in a storm, they'll be a cover and a shelter. When you're cold, they'll be a blanket. When you're hungry, they'll feed you. When you're tired, they'll help you rest. When you're weak, they'll strengthen you. When it's foggy, they'll shine a light on your path and help you be able to see where you're going.

As you're going up the mountain, don't just keep looking down and around you at the ground and the rocks under you, but stop as often as you can and look up! Look up to the beautiful blue sky and to the mountain peaks that you are climbing toward, and that will encourage you and refresh you and give you the stamina to keep going a little longer.

You'll hardly notice the muddy paths because you'll be looking up! You'll be looking in My face and you'll be looking up at the beautiful blue sky. You'll be looking forward, and when you have that vision, these little nagging problems won't get you down. That's a promise!

Getting to Know the Bible—Listening to God

The key to the greatness of the lives of any of the men of God of history (or today!) is their dependence on the Lord and listening to Him and following His instructions. Here are three examples:

Noah was instructed by the Lord to build the ark. He had never even seen a boat before. How could he do it?

Noah took time with the Lord. Not only did he have the general vision of the impending disaster that the Lord was about to bring through the Flood and the desire to save his family, but he also needed very detailed instructions on how to do the work that the Lord had called him to do, and this took time.

He had to research materials. He had to take into account what type of materials should be used that would weather the conditions, and the Lord gave him specific instructions because he asked. He had to take into account the way the material would be fitted together, the type of fastenings to use, the type of covering, the type of material to use to waterproof it. All these were details that he had to ask the Lord about, and He answered him and told him where to get them, and in some cases even how to get them—and this took time.

He had to get the exact specifications, the length of the ark itself, and then break it down into the individual increments of the specific measurements for each piece of wood. Each plank had to be cut and fitted in the right place. He had to have a big picture, a big scheme of how it was all going to fit together.

He couldn't just chop down a tree and start hammering it up against another piece of wood without any scheme or overall plan. The boat never would have been waterproof. It never would have been strong enough to weather the huge waves of the Flood. It never would have been able to house all of the creatures in the different compartments that needed to be fashioned specifically to meet their needs.

All this took time and prayer. It took listening and then meticulously recording things that the Lord gave him, so that he wouldn't forget. Several times in the Biblical account we read that "God said to Noah," giving him various instructions, then a few verses later, "Thus Noah did; according to all that God commanded him, so he did" (Genesis 6:13).

So follow his good example, as the Lord has referred to it in His Word. "As the days of Noah were, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be" (Matthew 24:37). In these Last Days, we need to cultivate the habit of hearing from the Lord and getting our instructions from Him, just like Noah did!

Samuel was a priest, prophet and judge. See 1 Samuel 3 for the account of how Samuel received his call from the Lord. The key: "Speak Lord, I'm listening."

The prophet **Jonah** listened to the Lord's voice, but he had a problem with obedience! Read his story in the book of Jonah. Notice how he only obtained deliverance from the "great fish" when he cried, "Deliverance is of the Lord." Praise is often the path to victory!