

## Overcoming Obstacles - Kimo Hoopai, November 12, 2023

Some obstacles that we face in life are large and some are small , but it's still something we need to get through or over by the grace of God. Here are 3 that stand out for me. 1. Illness 2. Fear 3. Commitment and many more. Obstacles have a way of getting in the way of what you want, but cannot stop what God wants. An obstacle opposes, hinders progress—but God's Spirit has a way of overcoming obstacles.

**1 . Illness Jeremiah 17:14 NIV** Heal me, LORD, and I will be healed; save me and I will be saved, for you are the one I praise.

**Isaiah 53:5 NIV** But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed.

Notes : Isaiah mentions five times that the Lord's righteous servant would carry our sins. Why was it necessary for the Messiah to do this? Because God is holy, we cannot enter his presence marked by sin. So the perfect, sinless Lamb of God, Jesus, took our sin and experienced the death we deserve. He made our sacrifice for us so we can now enter God's holy presence Isaiah. The Messiah's sacrifice did not end merely in death; he rose from the dead to show that he had power over death and gave us confident hope that we, like him, will experience eternal, resurrected life. And to overcome our illnesses.

**2 Chronicles 7:14-15 NIV** <sup>14</sup> if my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land. <sup>15</sup> Now my eyes will be open and my ears attentive to the prayers offered in this place.

Notes : God answered with four conditions for forgiveness: God's people should (1) humble themselves by admitting their sins; (2) pray, asking for forgiveness; (3) seek God continually; and (4) turn from sinful behavior. True repentance means more than talk—it requires us to change our attitudes and behavior. Whether we sin individually, as a group, or as a nation, following these steps will lead to forgiveness. God will answer our earnest prayers for healing of the land and of the people.

**2 . Fear** The fear of failure, or of being judged by others is an emotion that, when it becomes a condition of life, prevents a person from fully developing his/her potential.

**Isaiah 41:10 NIV** So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.

**2 Timothy 1:7 NIV** For the Spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us power, love and self-discipline.

**Matthew 14:28-32 NIV** <sup>28</sup> Lord, if it's you," Peter replied, "tell me to come to you on the water." <sup>29</sup> "Come," he said. Then Peter got down out of the boat, walked on the water and came toward Jesus. <sup>30</sup> But when he saw the wind, he was afraid and, beginning to sink, cried out, "Lord, save me!" <sup>31</sup> Immediately Jesus reached out his hand and caught him. "You of little faith," he said, "why did you doubt?" <sup>32</sup> And when they climbed into the boat, the wind died down.

**3 . Commitment** It's so hard to take on large commitments because they open us up to a risk. Risk is scary, it could mean a big failure — emotionally, physically, or financially. Our brains don't like considering the potential of those risks, and they convince us that it's not worth it.

**James 4:7-8 NIV** <sup>7</sup> Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. <sup>8</sup> Come near to God and he will come near to you. Wash your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded.

Notes: How can you come close to God? James gives five ways: (1) "Humble yourselves before God" (4:7). Yield to his authority and will, commit your life to him and his control, and be willing to follow him. (2) "Resist the devil" (4:7). Don't allow Satan to entice and tempt you. (3) "Wash your hands [and] purify your hearts" (that is, lead a pure life) (4:8). Be cleansed from sin, replacing the desire to sin with the desire to experience God's purity. (4) "Let there be tears for what you have done" (5) "Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up in honor."

### **In Closing:**

**Romans 8:37 NIV** <sup>37</sup> No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. <sup>38</sup> For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, <sup>39</sup> neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.