

OPERATION EVANGELIUM

Witnessing for Christ

GOSPEL UP

- **G**ospel-centered
- **O**thers-focused
- **S**pirit-filled
- **P**rayerful
- **E**nvironment of Growth
- **L**eadership examples
- **U**nity
- **P**assion

GOSPEL UP

- 4 Words
- 3 Men
- 2 Principles

Gospel Obstacles

OPERATION EVANGELIUM

OBSTACLES IN ACTS

- **Gazing** (Acts 1:10-11)
- Skeptics/Unbelievers (Acts 2:13)
- Religious opposition (Acts 4:3)
- **Fear** (Acts 4:29)

OBSTACLES IN ACTS

- **Pride** (Acts 5:1 ff)
- Internal discord (6:1-2)
- Persecution (8:1)
- Opposition within the church (11:1-3)

OBSTACLES IN ACTS

- Political authority (12:1)
- False prophets (13:6, Titus 1:)
- False religion (14:11, 17:16, 19:28)
- Business interests (Acts 16:19 19:25)

OBSTACLES IN ACTS

- Philosophy of men (Acts 17:18,32)
- Wolves (Acts 24:29-30)
- Imprisonment (24:27)

OBSTACLES OUTSIDE OF ACTS

- **Disunity** (John 17:23, Phil. 2:14)
- False gospels (Galatians 1:6)
- Spiritual warfare (Eph. 6:10ff, 1 Thess. 2:18)
- **Doubt** (Heb. 2)

OTHER OBSTACLES OUTSIDE OF ACTS

- **Impure religion** (James 1:27-2:1-4)
 - Poor testimony
- **Unspiritual lives** (2 Peter 1:1-8)
- Doctrinal error (2 John 10)
- **Pride** (Revelation 3:14ff)

MORE OBSTACLES

- **Leisure**
- **Lethargy**
- **Lovelessness**
 - Love is spelled T-I-M-E.
 - Love is listening.
 - Love is putting yourself in the other person's shoes.

MORE OBSTACLES

- **Busy-ness:** hurrying
- **Business:** focusing on temporal rather than spiritual
- **Bad moods**

MORE OBSTACLES

- **Lack of intimacy with God**
- **It's not my responsibility**
- **The Christian “bubble”**

MORE OBSTACLES

- Geographical challenges
- Legal challenges
- Cultural challenges
- Educational challenges
- Economic challenges

WHY SO MANY OBSTACLES?

- To highlight the fact that we need God...

WHAT IS THE BIGGEST OBSTACLE?

Our sin

WHAT IS THE BIGGEST OBSTACLE?

- **Pride (Acts 5)**
- **Pride (Revelation 3)**

PRIDE

- It was pride that changed angels into devils; it is humility that makes men as angels. Saint Augustine
- Pride slays thanksgiving, but a humble mind is the soil out of which thanks naturally grow. A proud man is seldom a grateful man, for he never thinks he gets as much as he deserves. Henry Ward Beecher
- There are two kinds of pride, both good and bad. 'Good pride' represents our dignity and self-respect. 'Bad pride' is the deadly sin of superiority that reeks of conceit and arrogance. John C. Maxwell

PRIDE: GOD HATES IT

- These six things doth the LORD hate: yea, seven are an abomination unto him: 17 A proud look...Pro. 6:16–17
- The fear of the Lord *is to hate evil: pride, and arrogancy, and the evil way, and the froward mouth, do I hate. Pro. 8:13*
- *Every one that is proud in heart is an abomination to the LORD: though hand join in hand, he shall not be unpunished. Pro. 16:5.*

PRIDE

- Through pride we are ever deceiving ourselves. But deep down below the surface of the average conscience a still, small voice says to us, something is out of tune. Carl Jung
- A man's pride can be his downfall, and he needs to learn when to turn to others for support and guidance. Bear Grylls
- Pride makes us artificial and humility makes us real. Thomas Merton
- In general, pride is at the bottom of all great mistakes. John Ruskin

PRIDE: GOD JUDGES IT

- *Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall. Pro. 16:18*
- *An high look, and a proud heart, and the plowing of the wicked, is sin. Pro. 21:4*
- *A man's pride shall bring him low: but honour shall uphold the humble in spirit. Pro. 29:23*
- *Behold, this was the iniquity of thy sister Sodom, pride, fulness of bread, and abundance of idleness was in her and in her daughters, neither did she strengthen the hand of the poor and needy. Eze 16:49–56*

PRIDE: CAUSES PROBLEMS

- Only by pride cometh contention: but with the well advised is wisdom. *Pro. 13:10*
- *The pride of thine heart hath deceived thee, thou that dwellest in the clefts of the rock, whose habitation is high; that saith in his heart, Who shall bring me down to the ground? Obadiah 3.*

PRIDE

- *For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. 1 John 2:16*
- *He that is of a proud heart stirreth up strife: but he that putteth his trust in the LORD shall be made fat. Pro. 28:25.*

WHAT IS THE BIGGEST OBSTACLE?

- Balaam v. Israel's blessing (Numbers 22-25)
- Joshua and the people v. Ai (Joshua 7)

WHAT IS THE ONLY THING THAT CAN STOP THE CHURCH?

- The world? • No
- Political leaders? • No
- Poverty? • No
- The gates of hell?
(Matt. 16:18) • No
- Sin? • Yes