



## LIVING WITH DIRECTION IN OUR CONGREGATION

# University Church of Christ – Summer Series

*Sermon by Ray Reynolds (August 8, 2018)*

Introduction: God has asked us to follow Him (**Deuteronomy 5:33, 31:8, Psalm 119:133, Matthew 4:19, Luke 9:23, John 8:12**). The problem with following God is that things often deter, distract and/or discourage us. What happens when we face these obstacles? What are these roadblocks that keep us from living with direction? How can we overcome them? In this lesson, I want to share seven major obstacles that keep us from living as the New Testament church. Let's study together...

Discussion:

### ***Obstacle #1 = Apathy***

- Apathy produces ungodliness (**Genesis 6-10, Zephaniah 1:12-13**).
- Apathy produces insincerity (**I Samuel 9-31, Joshua 24:14-15**).
- Apathy produces idleness (**Proverbs 15:19, Revelation 3:14-22**).
- Apathy produces weariness (**Isaiah 40:27-31, Galatians 6:9**).
- Apathy produces weakness (**Hosea 1-3, I Thessalonians 5:18-22**).

### ***Obstacle #2 = Denial***

- Denial removes hope (**Genesis 6:8, Romans 4:18-22**).
- Denial removes forgiveness (**Psalm 51:17, I John 1:8-9**).
- Denial removes patience (**Isaiah 40:30-31, Philippians 4:4-13**).
- Denial removes the light (**Matthew 5:13-16, Acts 26:17-18**).
- Denial removes promises (**Matthew 28:20, Hebrews 13:5**).

### ***Obstacle #3 = Fear***

- Fear can take away your reality (**Psalm 23:1-6, Matthew 22:29-30**).
- Fear can take away your confidence (**Proverbs 14:26-27, Hebrews 13:5-6**).
- Fear can take away your spirituality (**Lamentations 3:57, Matthew 10:28**).
- Fear can take away your perspective (**Luke 22:31, I John 4:4**).
- Fear can take away your understanding (**I Corinthians 10:13, Hebrews 4:15**).

### ***Obstacle #4 = Materialism***

- Materialism contributes to lust and pride (**Genesis 3:1-8, I John 5:19**).
- Materialism contributes to sinful desires (**Numbers 22, Proverbs 21:17-20**).
- Materialism contributes to anxiety (**Matthew 6:25-34, Philippians 4:6**).
- Materialism contributes to financial instability (**Luke 12:17, 16:19-31, 18:18-30**).
- Materialism contributes to greed (**Acts 8:24-27, Philippians 2:3-8**).

### ***Obstacle #5 = Laziness***

- Laziness causes discouragement and depression (**Psalm 1:1, Titus 1:12**).
- Laziness causes bad habits (**Proverbs 6:6, II Thessalonians 3:10-11**).
- Laziness causes physical and spiritual poverty (**Proverbs 10:4-5, 26, 11:28, 14:23**).
- Laziness causes physical and spiritual destruction (**Proverbs 15:7, 24:30-34, Acts 22:16**).
- Laziness causes foolish decision making (**Proverbs 30:8-9, Hebrews 6:12**).

### ***Obstacle #6 = Procrastination***

- Procrastination can delay your offering (**Exodus 8:8-10, Exodus 22:29-30**).
- Procrastination can frustrate your future (**Proverbs 27:1, Matthew 25:1-13**).
- Procrastination can hinder your work (**Haggai 1:2-5, I Kings 19:19-21**).
- Procrastination can weaken your faith (**Matthew 16:24, Acts 24:24-27**).
- Procrastination can obstruct your view (**Hebrews 12:1-2, Philippians 3:12-16**).

### ***Obstacle #7 = Selfishness***

- Selfishness ignores humility (**Matthew 18:2-4, Jonah 1-4**).
- Selfishness ignores responsibility (**Matthew 18:5-7, Mark 10:21-27**).
- Selfishness ignores temperance (**Matthew 18:8-10, Luke 12:13-21**).
- Selfishness ignores compassion (**Matthew 18:11-14, Luke 16:1-13**).
- Selfishness ignores discipline (**Matthew 18:15-18, Luke 16:19-31**).

Conclusion: Listen to Paul's words of wisdom in **Romans 8:28-39**. There is nothing wrong with encountering an obstacle... the problem is when we refuse to go around it, under it or over it. Did you notice anything about these seven obstacles? These are things that we wrestle with spiritually and physically as individuals AND as a church. When did the story of Job turn the corner (**Job 40-42**)? Ask yourself three questions: *Where are you heading? Are you leading others in the right direction? What can keep you from your destination?* If something needs to change, do it now while you have time for a U-turn! *Let's get right church!*

