

April 15, 2007

Jeff Mikels

AIEFM: Overcome What Holds You Back

"...LET US THROW OFF EVERYTHING THAT HINDERS AND THE SIN THAT SO EASILY ENTANGLES..." — HEB 12:1

WEEK 2

Direct people to my blog and Breaking through Spiritual Barriers messages.

Introducing Tony Donoho...

Known for about a year, done Bible 101, part of a home church with 4 other families.

Forces trying to hold us back / biggest obstacles are INTERNAL / VIDEO

The obstacles you face depend on the goals you set!

What are your goals?

- Represent God's greatness: a **CHARACTER LIKE JESUS**.
- Experience God's greatness: the **PRESENCE OF GOD**.
- Accomplish great things with God: an **ETERNAL IMPACT**.

Jesus has a story to tell you...

The Story of the Sower

Matthew 13:1-23 (p. 678)

The Seed is **GOD'S WORD**.

Something God wants to do in and through you

It naturally produces fruit unless something prevents it.

Soil #1 — **DEAD AND DRY** (v. 19)

The biggest barrier is sin. Sin has made dead to God's work in our lives.

As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sin...

Ephesians 2:1

The man without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him, and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually discerned.

1 Corinthians 2:14

My Lawn Hydroseed — Soak, Watch, Pray

APP: IF THIS IS YOU, Soak yourself in God-experiences,

Watch your soul for God-moments, Pray for God to soften you.

Soil #2 — **HARDSHIPS** (v. 20-21)

solid steady spiritual life that hardship shut down? Shallow Roots!

Hardships **DIVIDE** life.

Show the diagram

Hardships are only obstacles if your goals are **MISALIGNED!**

If your goals are self-motivated, self-focused, and self-satisfying,
then hardship will be an obstacle you will never overcome.

If your goals are strength of character, a close walk with God,
and the ability to help others, hardships will get you there faster.

But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me. That is why, for Christ's sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

2 Corinthians 12:9-10

Clyde McDowell could still pray.

APP: IF YOU ARE IN IT, choose endurance, through it, choose God

...God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it.

1 Corinthians 10:13

APP: IF YOU AREN'T IN IT YET, choose to send your roots down deep.

Soil #3 — **DISTRACTIONS** (v. 22)

Worship Application Illustration

APP: Look up.

Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things.

Philippians 4:8

Soil #4 — Fruitfulness happens **NATURALLY** (v. 23)

What's My Next Step?

- Soak, watch and pray.
- Get deep roots in the Bible.
- Look up more than around.
- Bear some fruit.

My next step in being an "overcomer" is

For Real Motivation Consider Jesus.

Everything we have talked about is summarized by Jesus' life.

Hebrews 12:1-7 (p. 835)

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What are your goals?

- Represent God's greatness: a _____.
- Experience God's greatness: the _____.
- Accomplish great things with God: an _____.

The Story of the Sower

Matthew 13:1-23 (p. 678)

The Seed is _____.

Soil #1 — _____ (v. 19)

As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sin...

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Soil #2 — _____ (v. 20-21)

Hardships _____ *life.*

Hardships are only obstacles if your goals are _____!

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(on your communication card)

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