




Clearing Hurdles: Overcoming the Obstacles in the Race

Understanding Your Opponent


Satan will hinder us **PHYSICALLY**.


 2 Kings 15:5 (NIV) “The Lord afflicted the king with leprosy until the day he died, and he lived in a separate house. Jotham the king’s son had charge of the palace and governed the people of the land.”

 Job 2:7 (NIV) “...Satan went out from the presence of the Lord and afflicted Job with painful sores from the soles of his feet to the top of his head.”


 2 Corinthians 12:7–9 (NIV) “...there was given me a thorn in my flesh, a messenger of Satan, to torment me. ⁸ Three times I pleaded with the Lord to take it away from me. ⁹ 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.”


Satan will hinder us **OPERATIONALLY**.

 Daniel 10:10–13 (NIV) “A hand touched me and set me trembling on my hands and knees. ¹¹ He said, “Daniel, you who are highly esteemed, consider carefully the words I am about to speak to you, and stand up, for I have now been sent to you.” And when he said this to me, I stood up trembling. ¹² Then he continued, “Do not be afraid, Daniel. Since the first day that you set your mind to gain understanding and to humble yourself before your God, your words were heard, and I have come in response to them. ¹³ But the prince of the Persian kingdom resisted me twenty-one days. Then Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, because I was detained there with the king of Persia.”

 1 Thessalonians 2:18 (NIV) “For we wanted to come to you—certainly I, Paul, did, again and again—but Satan stopped us.”

Satan will hinder us **SPIRITUALLY**.

 Galatians 5:7–8 (NIV) “You were running a good race. Who cut in on you and kept you from obeying the truth? ⁸ That kind of persuasion does not come from the one who calls you.”

 Galatians 5:9–10 (NLT) “This false teaching is like a little yeast that spreads through the whole batch of dough! ¹⁰ I am trusting the Lord to keep you from believing false teachings. God will judge that person, whoever he is, who has been confusing you.”

Digging Deeper: What are some ways that you have seen Satan hinder your progress? Who do you know that has defied the odds and has a faith that inspires you? How has Satan used your schedule to sabotage your spiritual life? Who or what is keeping you from growing in Christ?

