

## Overcoming Obstacles

Written by Steve Marr  
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Any business leader understands that running a business is a series of overcoming obstacles, one after another. In some instances, it's physical challenges; other times it could be financial or family. Paul wrote "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 of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me." (2 Corinthians 2:9, ESV)

When I was six years old, I put my right hand through a glass door severing my artery, tendons, muscles and everything it was possible to cut. Fortunately, my father was home and had first aid training from his time in the Navy or I would have died. The accident left me with limited use of my hand and made it impossible to straighten my fingers. Plus, my hand was always weaker and smaller. When I tried to play baseball, I attempted to catch the ball in my left hand and remove my glove to make a throw. This never worked very well.

I also played some ice hockey. However, when opposing players figured out my right hand was weaker; they would exploit my weakness. This limited the level of hockey I would be able to play.

Throughout life I have had to learn to accommodate my arm/hand injury and overcome the challenges it offered. It meant I simply could not participate in some activities like rock climbing where you needed strong hands and sound feet.

Overcoming obstacles requires putting them out of your mind and moving forward. Life gives all us reality constraints. You can't change your reality; you must accept the reality and move forward.

Jim Abbott pitched in the major leagues for ten years despite being born without a right hand. He would hold the glove on his right stump, throw the ball and immediately put the glove on his left hand in case he needed to field the ball. While Jim Abbott's statistics were not outstanding, he pitched a no-hitter during his time as a New York Yankee. Not many pitchers can claim that feat. Jim wrote a book called: *Imperfect: An Improbable Life*. It is an inspirational account about

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how he overcame adversity.

When obstacles arise, we need to understand the Lord's power to help us overcome our weaknesses. This doesn't mean that we recklessly take on unwise tasks or adventures. For me to rock climb one-handed would have been incredibly unwise.

For Jim Abbott, there were many professions he couldn't compete in one-handed; however, baseball was not one of them. He became an overcomer.