

Obstacles to Evangelism

Deuteronomy 9:3a Be assured today that the LORD your God is the one who goes across ahead of you like a devouring fire.

Many obstacles hinder the spread of the gospel today. Pray that the Holy Spirit will go “ahead” of the church as a “devouring fire” to remove these obstacles. The work of evangelism can only be done with the leadership, blessing, and provision of the Holy Spirit.

1. **Division among followers of Jesus Christ.** Jesus Himself prayed in John 17:20-21, “My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me.”
2. **Governments that forbid or restrict evangelism.** Many countries have governments that support a religion that is not Christianity and make evangelism illegal and conversion punishable by the authorities. In some countries, converts to Christianity will lose property and legal rights.
3. **Radicalism.** We hear daily of the atrocities committed by Islamic jihadists. But persecution of the Way by radicals is not limited to Islamists. On a lesser scale, the similar persecution and intimidation comes from some groups of Hindus and Buddhists.
4. **Nationalism.** In some places, Christianity is viewed as a threat to national culture, tradition, and pride. Some ultra-nationalists fight against the proclamation of the gospel and against anyone who proclaims the good news of Jesus.
5. **Materialism.** A plague upon the people of many nations where love for created things replaces love for the Creator of all things.

Pray for the work of the Holy Spirit to break down barriers and open doors for evangelism among all the unreached of the world. **Hebrews 12:1-3**

We live in this world, but we don't fight our battles in the same way the world does. The weapons we use are not human ones. Our weapons have power from God and can destroy the enemy's strong places. We destroy people's arguments, and we tear down every proud idea that raises itself against the knowledge of God. We also capture every thought and make it give up and obey Christ. **II Cor. 10:3-5**