

# Broken Any Plowshares Lately?

By Barry Rice

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It is easier to overcome obstacles in the pathway toward achieving and living your definition of success, if you take the time to identify, first, the obstacles that may confront you.

“I have learned that success is to be measured not so much by the position that one has reached in life as by the obstacles, which he has to overcome while trying to succeed.”  
Booker T. Washington

For years, an old farmer had plowed around a large rock buried in one of his fields. He had broken several plowshares and a cultivator on it. He had grown rather gloomy about the rock.

One day, after breaking another plowshare, he remembered all of the trouble the rock had caused him throughout the years. He finally decided to do something about it.

When he put the crowbar under the rock, he was surprised to discover that it was only about six inches thick. He could break it up easily with a sledgehammer. As he was carting the pieces away he had to smile, remembering all the trouble that the rock had caused him over the years. How easy it would have been to get rid of it sooner.

When you anticipate that you may encounter a particular obstacle, you should develop a plan on how to overcome it, in advance. An unplanned obstacle can suddenly stop or divert you if you are just 'winging-it'. Without a plan, the obstacle becomes just like a detour that can send you miles out of your way.

Take the time to map-out a list of potential obstacles that may stand in the way of achieving each of your short, mid, and

long term goals before you take the first planned action step. It is then, and only then, that your vision of achievement can take on new clarity and your personal commitment may be cemented.

Now, take the time to recognize what obstacles may break your plowshares and go grab yourself a whole bunch of sunrises of opportunity!

Barry Rice, write, speaker and consultant, is the author of Moving Forward Out Of The Fog, the self-paced, practical exercise-based course that guides you, step-by-step, to achieving, and living, YOUR definition of success. Subscribe to his challenging and inspiring newsletter at sunriseofopportunity@getresponse.com.

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