

Donkey in the Well

Do you encounter obstacles in your path to success? If not, you are a rare individual, indeed.

A story by Joyce Myers in her book, *Never Give Up!*, addresses this subject. It was referred to me by LaDonn Hilla of Life Care Center of Cape Girardeau, Mo.:



A donkey fell into a deep well, and the farmer who owned him had no idea how to get the donkey out. After much thought, he concluded the best solution would be to call some of his friends to help bury the donkey in the well. After all, he reasoned, the donkey was old, and trying to get him out of the well was going to be a lot of trouble.

The neighboring farmers arrived with shovels and they all began to pitch dirt into the well, on top of the donkey. The donkey began to make horrible noises – for awhile. Then the donkey was silent. The men peered down into the well and saw an amazing sight. Every time they threw a shovel full of dirt into the well, the donkey simply shook it off, so it ended up under his feet instead of on top of him.

They kept shoveling, trying to bury the helpless donkey, and he kept shaking off the dirt! Before long, the pile of dirt with which they were trying to bury him became tall enough to raise him out of the well, and he simply stepped off of the pile onto level ground. If the donkey had just stood there and allowed the dirt to bury him, he would not have survived. But he was determined to get out of that well. Every time a shovel full of dirt landed on him, he shook it off and climbed on top of it.

We can learn a lesson from the donkey. Use the difficulties and obstacles we face as stepping stones to our goals in life. When a seemingly impossible situation comes your way, do not allow it to bury you. Be creative about overcoming it and determined to make it work for you, not against you. Turn it to your favor, even if you have to get on top of it one step at a time. Let the circumstances that could suffocate you be the very situations that strengthen you and raise you to a new level.

Be a person who is willing to work with God to develop a determined "can-do" attitude; act on the truth that His power is at work within you and that ... "I can do all things through Christ, which strengthens me" (Philippians 4:13), no matter what stands in your way.

– Beecher Hunter