

Overcoming Problems

Probably you would agree with this: There is a world of difference between a person who has a big problem and a person who makes a problem big.

In his book, *The Maxwell Daily Reader*, John C. Maxwell tells about a time when – for several years – he would do between 20 and 30 hours of counseling each week.

“I soon discovered that the people who came to see me were not necessarily the ones who had the most problems,” he said. “They were the ones who were problem-conscious and found their difficulties stressful. Naïve at first, I would try to fix their problems, only to discover that they would go out and find others.”

A study of 300 highly successful people – people like Franklin Delano Roosevelt, Helen Keller, Winston Churchill, Albert Schweitzer, Mahatma Gandhi and Albert Einstein – revealed that one-fourth had handicaps, such as blindness, deafness or crippled limbs. Three-fourths had either been born in poverty, came from broken homes or at least came from exceedingly tense or disturbed situations.

Why did the achievers overcome problems, while thousands are overwhelmed by theirs?



“They refused to hold on to the common excuses for failure,” Maxwell said. “They turned their stumbling-blocks into stepping-stones. They realized they could not determine every circumstance in life, but they could determine their choice of attitude toward every circumstance.”

A quote appearing in the *Los Angeles Times* stated: “If you can smile whenever anything goes wrong, you are either a nitwit or a repairman.” But Maxwell’s response, I would add: “or a leader in the making – one who realizes that the only problem you have is the one you allow to be a problem because of your reaction to it. Problems can stop you temporarily. You are the only one who can do it permanently.”

Do you have a problem or two today in your professional or personal life? Learn to view them as temporary stumbling blocks.

And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose (Romans 8:28 NKJV).

– Beecher Hunter