

## What Are the Greatest Obstacles to Growth? Norms for respondents over age 15 (n = 1,591)

Busyness appears to be the greatest self-reported obstacle, followed by poor environment and independence from God (statistical tie), and lack of knowledge about how to grow. There appear to be no differences of practical significance for men versus women.

**Scale is 1.0 to 9.0 (higher mean = greater obstacle)**

<b>Obstacle</b>	<b>Gender</b>	<b>n</b>	<b>Mean</b>	<b>Std. Dev.</b>
<b>Busyness</b>	Men	565	5.529	1.351
	Women	1026	5.469	1.436
<b>Poor Environment</b>	Men	565	3.025	1.462
	Women	1026	3.242	1.695
<b>Independence from God</b>	Men	565	3.192	1.252
	Women	1026	3.007	1.259
<b>Lack of Knowledge</b>	Men	565	2.014	.905
	Women	1026	1.948	.923

The interpretation of these numbers, as provided on the website form, is as follows:

<b>Below 2.0</b>	This is probably <b><u>not an obstacle</u></b> for you
<b>2.0 – 3.9</b>	This may be a <b><u>moderate obstacle</u></b> for you. You should think further to assess whether this issue is in fact limiting your spiritual growth.
<b>4.0 – 5.9</b>	This may be a <b><u>significant obstacle</u></b> for you. If so, it is an obstacle that requires your attention. Consider addressing this obstacle soon if you want to grow.
<b>6.0 or greater</b>	This may be a <b><u>severe obstacle</u></b> for you. If so, it is likely an obstacle that is preventing you from making much progress in the area of spiritual growth.

Thus, for those in this sample, we would conclude that *busyness* is likely a “significant” obstacle to growth, *poor environment* and *independence from God* are “moderate” obstacles, and *lack of knowledge about how to grow* is a not much of an obstacle.