



## Part One: Because // Andy Stanley // May 22, 2022

Whether fueled by fear, insecurity, or a past event, many of us construct a paper wall of excuses that holds us back.

**Scripture:** [Hebrews 12:1-2 NIV](#)

**Bottom Line:** There's a relationship between our ability to follow Jesus and our willingness to acknowledge our excuses.

### Discuss:

1. What is the fundamental difference between an excuse and a reason? Can you think of a time when you substituted one for the other?
2. How would you characterize yourself in terms of overcoming obstacles? Would you say you press through them—or do you procrastinate or run when obstacles come up? In light of this message, do you feel most of those obstacles are reasons or excuses? Explain.
3. Andy said that the root of all excuses is “blaming something internal on something external.” What does this mean? Do you agree or disagree?
4. Have you ever exposed and discarded a personal excuse? If so, what did that process entail?
5. During the message, were you reminded of something you tell yourself as a way of avoiding responsibility or opportunity?
6. Read [Hebrews 12:1-2](#) aloud together. Are there excuses you've made that have kept you from living out your faith or growing spiritually? If so, what are they?
7. “People who make excuses rarely make much of a difference.” What is your reaction to this statement and why? Can you think of examples?
8. Andy talked about the relationship between our ability to follow Jesus and our willingness to acknowledge excuses. How exactly are they connected? What do you need to do in this regard to follow Jesus more wholeheartedly?