

Why Does God Say, “No!”?

Because of the extraordinary greatness of the revelations, for this reason, to keep me from exalting myself, there was given to me a thorn in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to torment me—to keep me from exalting myself! Concerning this I pleaded with the Lord three times that it might leave me. And He has said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness.” Most gladly, therefore, I will rather boast about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me.

2 Cor. 12:7-9

God says, “No!”:

1. Because it is better for _____.
(Num. 11:10-15; 1 Kgs. 19:1-4; Jonah 3:10 to 4:3;
2 Cor. 12:7-9)
2. Because it is better for _____.
(Lk. 22:41, 42)
3. Because it is better for _____.
(Phil. 2:13)

Conclusion: God truly “_____” best!



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Prayer: Why Bother?
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Discussion Questions

1. Review your sermon notes.
2. What is a “No!” answer to prayer that you have experienced?
3. What is a “No!” answer to prayer that you are thankful for?
4. Why do you think it is so hard to accept a “No!” answer to prayer?
5. God the Father said, “No!” to God the Son (see Lk. 22:41,42). What truths do we learn about prayer from this? What truths do we learn about relationships within the Trinity from this?
6. How do you think Jesus felt about the Father’s “No!” answer?
7. How should you respond when you get a “No!” answer to prayer? Why?