

# 40 DAYS OF PRAYER

## When God Says “No”, Part 2

2-28-21

*Jeremiah 33:3*- “Call to Me and I will answer you...”

### Three of The Many Reasons God Says ‘No’

**CAUTION:** Use these to comfort yourself, but NEVER use them with someone in pain, because you don’t know why God said “No” to them.

1. God says ‘no’ when He has a bigger **PERSPECTIVE**.

*Hebrews 4:13*- **Nothing** in all creation is **hidden** from God's sight. **Everything** is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of him to whom we must give account.

*Proverbs 2:8*- (God) **guards** the course of the just and **protects** the way of His faithful ones.

2. God says ‘no’ when He has a better **PLAN**.

*Isaiah 55:8-9*- “For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways **my ways**,” declares the Lord. <sup>9</sup> “**As the heavens are higher than the earth**, so are **my ways** higher than your ways and **my thoughts** than your thoughts.”

*Hebrews 11:39-40*- These were commended for their faith, yet none of them received what had been promised. <sup>40</sup> **God had planned SOMETHING BETTER**...

- God has all of eternity to **FULFILL** His promises.

3. God says 'no' when He has a greater **PURPOSE**.

*Psalm 57:2* - I cry out to God Most High, **who fulfills his purpose for me.**

*1 Peter 1:7* - The **purpose** of these **troubles** is to test your faith as fire tests how genuine gold is. Your faith is more precious than gold. (GW)

*2 Corinthians 4:17-18* - These present troubles are quite small and **won't last very long**. Yet they **will produce in us an immeasurably great glory** that will last forever! <sup>18</sup> So, we don't look at the troubles we can see right now; rather, we look forward to what we have not yet seen. For the troubles we see will soon be over, but the joys to come will last forever. (NLT)

*Deuteronomy 29:29* - There are some things the Lord our God has kept secret, but there are some things he has let us know. (NCV)

### **What Should I Do When God Says 'No'?**

1. Trust that God does \_\_\_\_\_ in goodness and love.

*Psalm 25:10* - All the ways of the Lord are loving...

*Romans 8:28* - In everything God works **for the good** of those who love Him. (ICB)

\* **I don't have to understand God's answer to know that it is motivated by love.**

2. When in pain, pray what Jesus prayed when facing the \_\_\_\_\_.

*Mark 14:35-36* - Going a little farther, Jesus fell to the ground praying that, if possible, he might not have to suffer what was ahead of him. Jesus prayed<sup>36</sup> **“Abba! My Father! All things are possible for you! Please take this cup of suffering away from me! Yet I want your will, not mine, to be done!”**

### The Right Way to Pray:

- \_\_\_\_\_ God’s power!  
“Father, I know you can do anything!”
- \_\_\_\_\_ with passion!  
“Father, please give me what I ask!”
- \_\_\_\_\_ God’s plan!  
“However, what I want most is your will!”

3. Expect God to give His grace to \_\_\_\_\_ His answer.

*2 Corinthians 12:8-10* - (Paul) Three times I prayed to the Lord about this and asked him to take it away.<sup>9</sup> But his answer was: **“My grace is all you need, for my power is greatest when you are weak.”**<sup>10</sup> So, I gladly boast about my weaknesses, so that Christ’s power can flow through me! ... For when I am weak, then I am strong!

*Psalms 9:10* - Those **who know you, Lord, will trust you!** You do not abandon anyone who comes to you! (TEV)