

40 DAYS OF PRAYER

When God Says “No”

2-21-21

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 _____.

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 _____.

Isaiah 55:8-9 - “For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways **my ways**,” declares the Lord. ⁹ “**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. ⁴⁰ **God had planned SOMETHING BETTER** . . .

• God has all of eternity to _____ His promises.

3. God says 'no' when He has a greater _____.

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! ¹⁸ 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 prayed³⁶ “**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.⁹ But his answer was: “**My grace is all you need, for my power is greatest when you are weak.**”¹⁰ 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)