

40 DAYS OF PRAYER

"When God Says No!"

Week 7

INTRODUCTION:

1. **Jeremiah 33:3**

a) "Call to Me and I will answer you..."

2. *You and I will have a lot of "no's" from God in our lifetime.*

3. There are a lot of reasons why God says "NO" to a prayer.

a) Some prayers could be a conflict of prayers.

b) Some prayers might require God to take away someone's free will.

1) **Galatians 6:7-8**

c) We pray for people to be healed and sometimes they aren't.

1) **Hebrews 9:27**

d) Some prayers are not answered because we have sin in our lives.

1) **John 9:31**

4. **REMEMBER THIS:** "Prayers that are not answered the way you want will absolutely be one of the greatest tests in your life." Wow!!!!!!

5. **Question:** "What will you do when God says no?"

6. The bottom line is this... We really have no idea why God sometimes says NO.

THREE REASONS WHY GOD SAYS NO

I. GOD SAYS NO BECAUSE HE SEES THE BIG PICTURE

1. *God sees what we cannot!!!*

2. **Hebrews 4:13**

3. *God knows how every answer (yes, no, later) will influence those around them.*

4. **Proverbs 2:6-8**

a) It doesn't say God will "**remove**" obstacles!!!

b) He will **"watch over"** saints.

5. Our prayer is, **"God please don't allow me to go through this trial!!!"**

6. **Daniel 3:16-18**

II. GOD SAYS NO BECAUSE HE HAS A BETTER PLAN

1. This is when God says "YES", but "NO" to the way you planned it.

2. **Isaiah 55:8-9**

3. **EXAMPLE:** We pray, **"God please get me out of debt."**

a) So, what is the easiest way? **"God help me win the lottery."**

1) I can guarantee you God will not do it that way!!!

2) Because God is more interested in your character than your comfort.

3) God's way may be a delayed answer.

4) **Hebrew 11:39-40**

b) We are in a building project and we want to pay our mortgage down as quickly as possible.

1) The easy remedy would be to win the lottery.

2) But when you accomplish God's purposes with ordinary people God gets the glory.

III. GOD SAYS NO BECAUSE HE HAS A GREATER PURPOSE

1. God always answers our prayers in accordance with His greater Glory.

2. **Psalm 57:2**

3. Even unanswered prayer is part of His eternal plan.

4. **1 Peter 1:7**

5. OK now what? Anytime your discouraged you can be reminded that God has a greater purpose for your life.

6. **2 Corinthians 4:17-18**

7. **FACT IS:** *If you're ever going to be happy in life, you will have to embrace 3 realities.*

a) **First** - *There are some things in life that you're just not going to understand till you get to heaven.*

b) **Second** - There are things in your life that will never change.

1) **2 Corinthians 12:7-10**

c) **Thirdly** - There will be times when you suffer for the benefit of other people.

8. God can take the greatest pain in your life and use it for His glory in someone else's life.

CONCLUSION: **SO...WHAT DO I DO WHEN GOD SAYS NO?**

#1 Trust that God does everything in goodness and love, for His Glory.

- **Psalm 25:10**
- **Romans 8:28**
- Here are your options:
 - You can **resist** it - go off the deep end and rebel against God.
 - You can **resent** it - and become bitter and miserable
 - You can **relax** - knowing that God has your best interest at heart.

#2 When you feel pain pray what Jesus prayed.

- **Matthew 14:35-36**
 - Affirm God's **Power**
 - Ask with **Passion**
 - Accept God's **Plan**

#3 Expect God to give His Grace

- **Grace to handle the pain.**
- **Remember even Paul prayed that God would remove the pain.**
 - **God said, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness."**

➤ **So what have you been praying for?**

➤ **Psalm 9:10**