

WHEN GOD SAYS NO

PBC - 40 Days of Prayer – Part 7 – 2 Cor 12:8-10

“Call to me and I will answer you...” Jeremiah 33:3 (NIV)

3 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.

People need our ears not our guessed answers!

1. GOD SAYS ‘NO’ WHEN HE HAS A BIGGER PERSPECTIVE

“He knows about everyone everywhere. Everything about us is bare and wide open to the all-seeing eyes of our living God; nothing can be hidden from Him...”
Hebrews 4:13 (LB)

“(God) guards the course of the just and protects the way of His faithful ones.”
Proverbs 2:8 (NIV)

2. GOD SAYS ‘NO’ WHEN HE HAS A BETTER PLAN

God: “This plan of mine is not what you would work out, neither are my thoughts the same as yours! For My ways are higher than yours.”
Isaiah 55:8-9 (LB)

“These were commended for their faith, yet none of them received what had been promised. God had planned SOMETHING BETTER...”
Hebrews 11:39-40 (NIV)

GOD HAS ALL OF ETERNITY TO FULFILL HIS PROMISES

3. GOD SAYS ‘NO’ WHEN HE HAS A GREATER PURPOSE

“I cry out to God Most High, who fulfills his purpose for me.” Ps 57:2

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

“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! 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.” 2 Cor 4:17-18 NLT)

“There are some things the Lord our God has kept secret, but there are some things he has let us know.” Deuteronomy 29:29 (NCV)
“Just as you’ll never understand how the mystery of life forms in a pregnant woman, so you’ll never understand the mystery at work in all that God does.” Ecclesiastes 11:5 (MSG)

WHAT SHOULD I DO WHEN GOD SAYS ‘NO’?

1. TRUST THAT GOD DOES EVERYTHING IN GOODNESS & LOVE

“All the ways of the Lord are loving...” Psalm 25:10 (NIV)

“In everything God works for the good of those who love Him.”
Romans 8:28 (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 FACING THE CROSS

“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 ‘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!’”
Mark 14:35-36

AFFIRM GOD’S POWER! - “Father, I know you can do anything!”

ASK WITH PASSION! - “Father, please give me what I ask!”

ACCEPT GOD’S PLAN! - “However, what I want most is your will!”

3. EXPECT GOD TO GIVE HIS GRACE TO HANDLE HIS ANSWER

(Paul) “Three times I prayed to the Lord about this and asked him to take it away. But his answer was: ‘My grace is all you need, for my power is greatest when you are weak.’ 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!”
2 Corinthians 12:8-10

“Those who know you, Lord, will trust you! You do not abandon anyone who comes to you!”
Psalm 9:10 (TEV)