

40 Days of Prayer - Part 7: When God Says No

3 reasons God might say no

(use these for yourself, but don't throw them at others going through painful times because you don't know why God may have told them no)

1. God says no when he has a **better perspective**.
2. God says no when he has a **better plan**.
3. God says no when he has a **better purpose**.

How should I respond when God says no?

1. **Trust** that God does everything in goodness and love.
Romans 8:28 (NIV) – *And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.*
2. **Pray** like Jesus prayed when he was facing the cross.
Mark 14:35-36 (NIV) - *Going a little farther, he fell to the ground and prayed that if possible the hour might pass from him. “Abba, Father,” he said, “everything is possible for you. Take this cup from me. Yet not what I will, but what you will.”*
3. **Expect** God to give me the grace to handle his answer.
2 Corinthians 12:8-10 (NIV) - *Three times I pleaded with the Lord to take it away from me. But he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ’s power may rest on me. That is why, for Christ’s sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong.*

God is sovereign

1. He can do what he wants.
2. He does not have to ask permission.
3. He does not need to explain himself.

Learning to grow up in faith is like learning to grow up in life.

- The world doesn't revolve around us.
- We don't always get what we want.
- When it comes to prayer, when we have an answer we didn't want, we need to accept it and trust God.

A word about the election from Pastor Rob:

I don't know who you voted for, but I know some of you lost and some of you won. Let me remind you that your ultimate hope doesn't rest in the outcome of a US election. Your ultimate hope rests in your savior Jesus Christ. No matter which side you're on, disagree politically, love unconditionally, and pray for peace.

Next Steps

1. Continue to have a daily time with God.
2. Attend large-group worship gatherings.
3. Join or host a small group
4. Commit to others who will grow with you.
5. Memorize Romans 8:28 - "*We know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.*" (NIV)

Think about it, talk about it

- How do I typically respond when God says no?
- Think about a time when God said no to something you asked for in prayer. Looking back, how do you think God had a better perspective, plan, or purpose?
- What makes it difficult to trust God's goodness and love when he says no? What can I do to trust him?
- When do I find it most difficult to pray like Jesus prayed when he was facing the cross? What would help me pray like that more often?
- When am I most likely to find it difficult to accept God's grace in handling a "no"?