

WHEN GOD SAYS NO

40 Days of Prayer
Rick Warren

“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.

1. GOD SAYS ‘NO’ WHEN HE HAS _____

“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 (TLB)

“He 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 _____

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

“These were all commended for their faith, yet none of them received what had been promised, since God had planned something better.”

Hebrews 11:39-40 (NIV)

GOD HAS ALL OF ETERNITY _____

3. GOD SAYS ‘NO’ WHEN HE HAS _____

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

Psalms 57:2 (ESV)

“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)

“Our present troubles are small and won’t last very long. Yet they produce for us a glory that vastly outweighs them and will last forever! So we don’t look at the troubles we can see now; rather, we fix our gaze on things that cannot be seen. For the things we see now will soon be gone, but the things we cannot see will last forever.” 2 Corinthians 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 the mystery of life forming 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 _____

“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 (NCV)

I DON’T HAVE TO _____ TO KNOW THAT IT IS MOTIVATED BY LOVE.

2. WHEN IN PAIN, PRAY _____

“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.’” Mark 14:35-36 (NIV)

THE RIGHT WAY TO PRAY

• _____
“Father, I know you can do anything!”

• _____
“Father, please give me what I ask!”

• _____
“However, what I want most is your will!”

3. EXPECT _____

Paul: “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 . . . For when I am weak, then I am strong.”

2 Corinthians 12:8-10 (NIV)

“Those who know you, Lord, will trust you; you do not abandon anyone who comes to you.” Psalm 9:10 (GNT)

Next Step

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