

When God Says No
40 Days of Prayer—Week 7

Jeremiah 33:3 – Call to me and I will answer you and tell you great and incomprehensible things you do not know. (CSB)

I. God says ‘no’ when he has a bigger **perspective**.

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. (NIV)

II. God says ‘no’ when He has a better **plan**.

Isaiah 55:8-9 – ⁸“My thoughts are nothing like your thoughts,” says the Lord. “And my ways are far beyond anything you could imagine. ⁹For just as the heavens are higher than the earth, so my ways are higher than your ways and my thoughts higher than your thoughts. (NLT)

Hebrews 11:39-40 – ³⁹All these were approved through their faith, but they did not receive what was promised, ⁴⁰since God had provided something better for us, so that they would not be made perfect without us. (CSB)

III. God says 'no' when He has a greater **purpose**.

Psalm 57:2 – I call to God Most High, to God who fulfills his purpose for me. (CSB)

1 Peter 1:7 – These trials will show that your faith is genuine. It is being tested as fire tests and purifies gold—though your faith is far more precious than mere gold. So when your faith remains strong through many trials, it will bring you much praise and glory and honor on the day when Jesus Christ is revealed to the whole world. (CSB)

IV. What to **do** when God says 'no'

A. Trust that God does everything in **goodness and love**.

Psalm 25:10 – All the Lord's ways show faithful love and truth to those who keep his covenant and decrees. (CSB)

B. When in pain, pray as **Jesus** prayed.

Mark 14:35-36 – ³⁵He went a little farther, fell to the ground, and prayed that if it were possible, the hour might pass from him. ³⁶And he said, "Abba, Father! All things are possible for you. Take this cup away from me. Nevertheless, not what I will, but what you will." (CSB)

C. Expect God to give His **grace** to handle His answer.

2 Corinthians 12:8-10 – ⁸Concerning this, I pleaded with the Lord three times that it would leave me. ⁹But he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is perfected in weakness.”

Therefore, I will most gladly boast all the more about my weaknesses, so that Christ’s power may reside in me. ¹⁰So I take pleasure in weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and in difficulties, for the sake of Christ. For when I am weak, then I am strong. (CSB)

Thought For The Week:

To trust when He says, “**no**,” is a guaranteed way to **grow**.

Todd Hitchcock - Bethel Baptist Church October 21, 2018 Message Notes
