

Amen: 40 Days of Prayer

When God says, “No”.

I tell you the truth, my Father will give you whatever you ask in my name. Until now, you have not asked for anything in my name. Ask and you will receive, and your joy will be complete.

(John 16:23, New International Version)

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

My Father! If it is possible, let this cup of suffering be taken away from me. *(Matthew 26:39, New Living Translation)*

Three Reasons God Says No

1. God protects us.

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, The Living Bible)*

[God] guards the paths of the just and protects those who are faithful to him. *(Proverbs 2:8, NLT)*

2. God has a better plan for us.

All these people earned a good reputation because of their faith, yet none of them received all that God had promised. For God had something better in mind for us. *(Hebrews 11:39 – 40, NLT)*

3. God wants to give us something better.

These have come so that the proven genuineness of your faith—of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire—may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. *(1 Peter 1:7, God’s Word)*

For 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)*

What do I do when God says no?

1. Thank God when he answers.

All the Lord’s ways are loving and true for those who follow the demands of his agreement. *(Psalm 25:10, New Century Version)*

We know that in everything God works for the good of those who love him. They are the people God called, because that was his plan. *(Romans 8:28, International Children’s Bible)*

2. Share your pain with God.

“Abba, Father,” he cried out, “everything is possible for you. Please take this cup of suffering away from me. Yet I want your will to be done, not mine. *(Mark 14:35-36, NLT)*

You keep track of all my sorrows. You have collected all my tears in your bottle. You have recorded each one in your book. *(Psalm 56:8, NLT)*

3. Pray for God’s strength through difficult times.

Three different times I begged the Lord to take it away. Each time he said, “My grace is all you need. My power works best in weakness.” So now I am glad to boast about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ can work through me. That’s why I take pleasure in my weaknesses, and in the insults, hardships, persecutions, and troubles that I suffer for Christ. For when I am weak, then I am strong. *(2 Corinthians 12:8-10, NLT)*

Those who know your name trust in you, for you, O Lord, do not abandon those who search for you. *(Psalm 9:10, NLT)*