

When the Answer is “No”

Introduction: God answers the prayers of faithful Christians. However, sometimes His answer is “no.” There are times when God will not hear prayers offered. (Isa. 59:1, 2; John 9:31; James 4:3) To Paul’s request about his “*thorn in the flesh*” (cf. Gal. 4:13-15) God’s answer was, “*My grace is sufficient for you...*”

I. Times When God Said “No”

- A. God said “No” to Moses. (Deut. 3:23-27; cf. Num. 20:7-13)
- B. God said “No” to king Saul! (1 Sam. 15:24-35)
- C. God said “No” to David! (2 Sam. 12:13-23)
- D. God said “No” even to Jesus! (Matt. 26:34-36)

II. Why Does God Sometimes Say “No”?

- A. Because the request may not fit God’s will! (Luke 24:46)
- B. Because God may be teaching us a lesson on account of our fault! (Cf. 2 Sam. 12:14)
- C. Because at times God’s grace is sufficient! (2 Cor. 12:9)
- D. Because God does not always intervene. (Cf. Luke 22:32)

III. What Is Our Attitude When God Says “No”?

- A. Don’t get mad at God! God saying “no” doesn’t mean He has deserted us... (cf. Heb. 13:5)
- B. Reevaluate our lives and priorities! David took a long, hard look at his personal life... (cf. (Psa. 51:1-4)
- C. Learn to live with it! This is precisely what Paul had to do. (Phil. 4:13)

Conclusion: We must prepare ourselves in our attitude toward God when the answer to our prayers is “No.” If we don’t, discouragement will replace our faith and cause us to doubt God’s love and response to our cares.