

what to do when...

Part 4: When God Says No

Why Does God Sometimes Say “No”? Lessons from David (2 Samuel 7)

1. Because He has a better _____

“When your days are over... I will raise up your offspring to succeed you... He is the one who will build a house for my Name, and... your throne will be established forever.” 2 Sam. 7:12,16

“As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.” Isaiah 55:9

2. Because He has a better _____

“This is what the LORD Almighty says... I will make your name great... The LORD himself will establish a house for you.” 2 Sam. 7:8,11

“These were commended for their faith, yet none of them received what had been promised. God had planned something better...” Heb. 11:39-40

What To Do When God Says “No”

1. Think _____

“Then King David sat before the LORD, and said: ‘Who am I, O Sovereign LORD, and what is my family, that you have brought me this far? ...And who is like your people Israel, whom you redeemed from Egypt?’” 2 Sam. 7:18,23

2. Trust _____

“And as if this were not enough in your sight, O Sovereign LORD, you have also spoken about the future of the house of your servant... you have promised these good things to your servant.” 2 Sam. 7:19,28b

“In everything, God works for the good of those who love Him...” Rom. 8:28

3. Thank _____

“What more can I say to you? For you know your servant, O Sovereign LORD.” 2 Sam. 7:20

“How great you are, O Sovereign LORD! There is no one like you, and there is no God but you... O Sovereign LORD, you have spoken, and with your blessing the house of your servant will be blessed forever.” 2 Sam. 7:22, 29b

I must choose to be _____ by God’s _____.

“Three times I pleaded with the Lord to take it away from me. But He said, ‘My grace is sufficient for you, for My power is made perfect in weakness.’” 2 Cor. 12:9

Daily Meditations

Brief daily Bible studies and questions for reflection on today’s topic!

This week’s memory verse:

“Now be pleased to bless the house of your servant, that it may continue forever in your sight; for you, O Sovereign LORD, have spoken, and with your blessing the house of your servant will be blessed forever.” 2 Sam. 7:29

Monday

Read 2 Samuel 7:1-5. David has a dream to build a temple, but God says “no”. Has God ever denied a dream of yours?

Why is this so difficult?

Which of the points from this past weekend’s message were particularly helpful to you? Why?

The first point was to see God’s denial as redirection rather than rejection. Has God ever redirected you – through denying a request – into ways that have brought you growth and blessing?

Thank God today that He redirects you, and doesn’t just grant every request or idea you may have!

Tuesday

The second point from the message was to trust that God has a bigger perspective; He knows the hidden facts. What do these verses say about the extent of the knowledge of God?

• Job 21:22:

• Daniel 2:-20-22:

• Psalm 139:1-5:

How does this help you when He says “no” to something you request?

Describe an instance where God said “no” to a request or dream, and you later discovered facts that God knew but were hidden from you.

Ask God to help you trust that He knows what is best for you.

Wednesday

Read 2 Samuel 7:18-24. When God says “no”, David immediately recounts all of God’s past blessings rather than dwell on his denied request. What are the blessings David recalls here?

Which of these blessings can you also claim as true for yourself?

In what other ways has God blessed you, both materially and spiritually? (Read Ephesians 1:13-14 for a list of His blessings on you!)

Why is it helpful to think of His past great acts for you when a prayer request is denied or delayed? Why do we often forget these past blessings?

Thank God today specifically for at least ten things He has blessed you with.

Thursday

In what areas are you worried about your future?

_____ Housing _____ Health _____ Finances
_____ Children _____ Schools _____ Other:

One of the points from last weekend’s message was to trust that God has a great plan for your future. It’s interesting that when God says “no” to David’s dream of building the temple, He essentially says, “no, but...” and then gives David a forecast of his bright days ahead. In

2 Samuel 7:10-16, what does God promise for David’s future?

What can you learn from the following verses about God’s plans for your future?

- Jeremiah 29:11:
- Proverbs 23:18:
- Philippians 1:6:
- Ephesians 2:10:

Since God has all these great plans for your future why does He sometimes say “no” to your dreams?

Thank God today that He has bright plans for your future. Ask Him to help you trust in His plans instead of worrying.

Friday

Read 2 Samuel 7:23, 25-29. The specific Hebrew word for God that David uses in these verses literally means “Sovereign God” or “Ruler over all”. I believe David very deliberately uses this term. In other words, ultimately David simply must bend to God’s sovereignty over his life. God is God and David is not. Sometimes we long for god-like control over every aspect of our lives. Why would this not be good?

Why is it a relief to turn over control of our lives to the Sovereign God?

In what area of your life are you attempting to cling to god-like control?

Today surrender every aspect of your life-including denied prayer requests and dreams -to the sovereign control of God. Ask God to be Lord of your total life.

Saturday

Today’s your chance to memorize this week’s Bible verse if you haven’t already. Thank God today for His grace that is offered to you every moment of every day. Please pray for the weekend services– that they might honor our great God and reach people with the Good New of God’s transforming grace!