

Sermon Study Guide



“Hello...God” Series

#1: When God Answers “NO”

June 27, 2021 | Dr. Stephen G. Tan

In this 4-part sermon series, we examine how we respond to God’s answer to our prayers.

Reflect

Think about a time when you prayed and asked God for something and He said, “No.” How did you respond? How do you feel about it now? What are some lessons you learned from the experience?

Read and Discuss

Five things to remember when God tells us no:

1. **Remember God’s Sovereignty.** God knows what He is doing and He is in full control because He is God. He is under no obligation to explain everything to us. What does Psalm 50:1 and Psalm 115:3 tell us about God’s sovereignty? Why is this truth sometimes difficult to remember during challenging times?
2. **Remember God’s Faithfulness.** Many times we doubt God’s faithfulness when things do not go well in our lives. When we trust God’s faithfulness, we will never go wrong. Psalm 22:1-12 gives us a glimpse of how David struggled with the same issue. When (and what instance) was the last time that you doubted God’s faithfulness?
3. **Remember God’s Grace.** It is remembering that God’s grace is sufficient that will help us cope when it seems that God is answering “No” to our most desired request. In 2 Corinthians 12:8, what was happening to Paul and what words did God give Paul when He answered “No” to Paul’s request. Why is it sometimes difficult to accept when God gives us a “No?”
4. **Remember God’s Love.** God’s “No” is based on God’s unconditional love for us knowing what is best for us. He knows that we will get hurt and upset but He knows what is best for us. Even

when God says “No,” He still loves us. Why is this kind of God’s love difficult for us to accept?

5. **Remember God’s Promises.** He will never leave us nor forsake us. What promises of God have significantly affected your life today? God always keeps His word. Even when God says no to us, He still keeps His promises. We can find peace because of these promises. How does God’s promises help you when God says “no” to your prayers?

Respond

In Walk: Do you find it difficult to accept God’s “No” in your life? Examine your heart. Is there anything preventing you from remembering that God is sovereign, faithful, gracious, loving, and keeps His promises? What steps can you take to remove that from your life?

In Prayer: Our gracious and loving Heavenly Father, we thank You for reminding us of who You are. We thank You because Your sovereignty, faithfulness, grace, love, and promises are never based on the results of our prayer requests but on Your person, on who You are. We pray, Lord, that You would grant us the maturity to trust and rely on You even when You give us a “no.” Help us who are struggling to trust in You and to deepen our spiritual walk so we can understand and accept when You answer no. Help us to live with joy knowing that You are in control and that Your answers to our prayers are motivated by love. Thank You, Lord. This is our prayer, in Jesus’ name. Amen.