**God Answers: Yes, NO and Not Yet.**

**God Answers Our Prayers With “Yes”…**

*Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours*. Mark 11:24

***14****This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us.****15****And if we know that he hears us—whatever we ask—we know that we have what we asked of him.*

 1 John 5:14-15

**God Answers Our Prayers With “No”…**

***16****David pleaded with God for the child. He fasted and spent the nights lying in sackclothon the ground.* ***18****On the seventh day the child died. David’s attendants were afraid to tell him that the child was dead, for they thought, “While the child was still living, he wouldn’t listen to us when we spoke to him. How can we now tell him the child is dead? He may do something desperate.”*  2 Samuel 12:16-18

(Also Paul’s Thorn in flesh)

**KEY PERSPECTIVE On The “NO”…** Don’t let God’s “no” shatter your faith. When things do not happen as we prayed, allow your perspective to change and step back and consider the “whole counsel of God” as to the why.

**NOT YET:**

Last week: Mary Martha send for Jesus 🡪 Wait two more days! Sometimes God waits to answer your prayer for *His Glory.*

**WHEN GOD DOESN’T MAKE SENSE… Part 3**

***“When God Is Uncooperative”***

**September 6th, 2020**

* **Jesus Taught: Prayer Is About SURRENDER To God’s Will Above Our Own.**

***38****Then he said to them, “My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death. Stay here and keep watch with me.”* ***39****Going a little farther, he fell with his face to the ground and prayed, “My Father, if it is possible, may this cup be taken from me. Yet not as I will, but as you will.”* ***40****Then he returned to his disciples and found them sleeping. “Couldn’t you men keep watch with me for one hour?” he asked Peter.****41****“Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak.”* ***42****He went away a second time and prayed, “My Father, if it is not possible for this cup to be taken away unless I drink it, may your will be done.”* ***43****When he came back, he again found them sleeping, because their eyes were heavy.****44****So he left them and went away once more and prayed the third time, saying the same thing.*  Matthew 26:38-44

* **Paul Taught: We Are Not In CONTROL – Prayer Is Our Mode Of Dependence.**

*Therefore, in order to keep me from becoming conceited, I was given a thorn in my flesh, a messenger of Satan, to torment me.****8****Three times I pleaded with the Lord to take it away from me.*  2 Corinthians 12:7-8

V7. *Thorn in the flesh.* Gk. skolops

* **Paul Taught: Prayer More Than Answers -> Become More CHRIST-LIKE.**

***9****But he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ’s power may rest on me.****10****That is why, for Christ’s sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong.* 2 Corinthians 12:9-10

*For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters.*

 Romans 8:29

**KEY**: God Concerned with Paul’s Character: Humility Vs Personal Pride.

**POINSETTIAS**