

Prayer—God Often Says “Yes”

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BIG SANDY, Texas—On June 12, I started a seven-part series about prayer. Today is part five.

- Part 1—Talking to a Perfect Father
- Part 2—Faith and God’s Will
- Part 3—God Told Moses and David “No”
- Part 4—God Told Paul “No”
- Part 5—God Often Says “Yes”

Three foundational principles

I want to show you what I believe to be three foundational principles about the subject of true faith.

- I believe that God (as a perfect Father) will supply our personal needs—because He is trustworthy and because He loves us.
- I believe that God will often give us the desires of our heart—because He loves us.
- I believe that God sometimes says “no” to our requests—because He loves us.

God said “yes” to Hezekiah

The prophet Isaiah told Hezekiah that he was going to die.

2 Kings 20:1—“In those days Hezekiah was sick and near death. And Isaiah the prophet, the son of Amoz, went to him and said to him, ‘Thus says the LORD: “Set your house in order, for you shall die, and not live.” ’ ”

Hezekiah asked God for mercy.

2 Kings 20:2-3—“Then he turned his face toward the wall, and prayed to the LORD, saying, ‘Remember now, O LORD, I pray, how I have walked before You in truth and with a loyal heart, and have done what was good in Your sight.’ And Hezekiah wept bitterly.”

God instructed Isaiah to tell Hezekiah about the changed diagnosis.

2 Kings 20:5-6—“Return and tell Hezekiah the leader of My people, ‘Thus says the LORD, the God of David your father: “I have heard your prayer, I have seen your tears; surely I will heal you. On the third day you shall go up to the house of the LORD. And I will add to your days fifteen years . . . ” ’ ”

God said "yes" to Nineveh

The prophet Jonah told citizens in the city of Nineveh that they would be overthrown.

Jonah 3:4—"And Jonah began to enter the city on the first day's walk. Then he cried out and said, 'Yet forty days, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!' "

The Ninevites asked God for mercy.

Jonah 3:8-9—"But let man and beast be covered with sackcloth, and cry mightily to God; yes, let every one turn from his evil way and from the violence that is in his hands. Who can tell if God will turn and relent, and turn away from His fierce anger, so that we may not perish?"

God withdrew His plan to overthrow Nineveh.

Jonah 3:10—"Then God saw their works, that they turned from their evil way; and God relented from the disaster that He had said He would bring upon them, and He did not do it."

New Testament examples

Matthew 8:5-7—"Now when Jesus had entered Capernaum, a centurion came to Him, pleading with Him, saying, 'Lord, my servant is lying at home paralyzed, dreadfully tormented.' And Jesus said to him, 'I will come and heal him.' "

Mark 5:22-23—"And behold, one of the rulers of the synagogue came, Jairus by name. And when he saw Him, he fell at His feet and begged Him earnestly, saying, 'My little daughter lies at the point of death. Come and lay Your hands on her, that she may be healed, and she will live.' "

Luke 1:13-14—"But the angel said to him, 'Do not be afraid, Zacharias, for your prayer is heard; and your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you shall call his name John. And you will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth.' "