What Do You Do, When God Says "No"

Introduction: Have you ever prayed for fervently that you are worn out? Have you ever been so distressed that you could not eat or sleep and spent hours in prayer? Such is the case with David, **2 Samuel 12.13-18a**. God's answer to David was a resounding NO. The baby died. We know that prayer is not just a wish list but that which seeks God to help us according to His will, **1 John 5.14-15**. Jesus prayed for this cup to pass from Him, **Luke 22.42** and the answer was NO. Paul prayed for his thrown in the flesh to be removed from him, God said NO. What are we to think when we pray for relief, money, etc. and God says NO!

**I) Some Will**

**A) Doubt the power of prayer**

1. I prayed to God for my father, mother, wife, brother, etc. I prayed for a good job.

2. We often feel let down by God and think, well prayer actually doesn't do any good.

3. The Bible tells us prayer is powerful, **James 5.16**.

**B) Doubt the power of God**

1. God must not be able to help my father, mother, brother, etc. God can't get me a good job.

2. God doesn't work miracles today so He really can't answer prayer.

3. Children of Israel doubted the power of God, **Jeremiah 14.22**.

**C) Doubt the justice of God**

1. How could God let me father, mother, brother die and let someone else live?

2. It doesn't seem right to me that a good person dies and an evil person lives.

3. Abraham appealed to the justice of God on behalf of Sodom and Gomorrah, **Genesis 18.25.**

**D) Doubt the love of God**

1. God must not really love me, he doesn't really love my father, mother, brother, etc.

2. A loving God would not let someone suffer, die like that, etc.

3. God sustains us through His love, **Romans 8.35-39**.

**E) Deny the existence of God**

1. "I just prayed to a God I don't believe in" line of a popular song.

2. God doesn't exist or else He would have done something.

3. **Psalm 19.1; 14.1**

**II) What Should You Do When God Says "NO"?**

**A) Examine yourself because you may not be in the right relationship with God.**

1. Not be a child of God, **Proverbs 28.9.**

2. Why would God answer your prayer if you are in rebellion.

**B) Realize that perhaps what seems to be "NO" is really "wait"**

1. It may take years for your prayer to be answered.

2. Children of Israel prayed for a deliverer and it took 80 years before Moses brought them out of Egypt.

3. Time is not the same with God, **2 Peter 3.8.**

**C) Realize there are some things God cannot do**

1. He cannot lie, cannot deny Himself.

**D) Realize there are some thing God will not do**

1. He will not remove all trials from us, **2 Corinthians 1.9, 3-4.**

2. He will not make you stand, **1 Corinthians 10.12-13**

3. He will not give us that which is actually bad for us, **Luke 11.9-13.**

**E) Realize that perhaps God is really saying "yes" in an unexpected way.**

1. God may be giving us what we need instead of what we want.

2. He may be giving us more than what we are praying for.

Conclusion: Trust God no matter what.