



**SERMON OUTLINE MAY 1, 2016**

## **Facing God's "NO"**

2 Corinthians 12:7-10

**INTRODUCTION:** "How do you face God's "No"?"

- I. ST. PAUL WAS FACING GOD'S "NO"** (2 Corinthians 12:7-10)
    - A. Paul had what he called "a thorn in the flesh"
    - B. He pleaded with God to take it away
    - C. God said – "no"
    - D. Remember that this is St. Paul – the greatest apostle
  
  - II. AFTER GOD SAID "NO" TO PAUL, HE SAID – "INSTEAD"**
    - A. When God says "no" to you, look for His "instead"
    - B. Consider God's "instead" to
      1. Moses
      2. King David
      3. The Old Testament Saints (Hebrews 11)
    - C. God's instead: "He'll never close a door, without opening a window"
    - D. But God's "instead" just may be a bigger door than you could have imagined
  
  - III. GOD'S "INSTEAD" IS HIS GRACE & HIS POWER** (2 Corinthians 12:9)
    - A. Grace is what God does for us without our earning it and without us asking for it
    - B. God's "instead Grace" gives us what we really need, not just what we want . . .
    - C. His "instead Grace" gives us His power in the midst of our weakness (2 Corinthians 12:9-10)
    - D. His "instead" replaces His "no"
- CONCLUSION:** His power in our weakness . . . His "instead grace":
1. A dying church member
  2. St. Paul still with his "thorn" – the greatest Apostle
  3. A wheelchair-bound preacher
  4. The invalid composer of "Just As I Am"