

# When God Says “No”

*(2 Corinthians 12:7-10)*

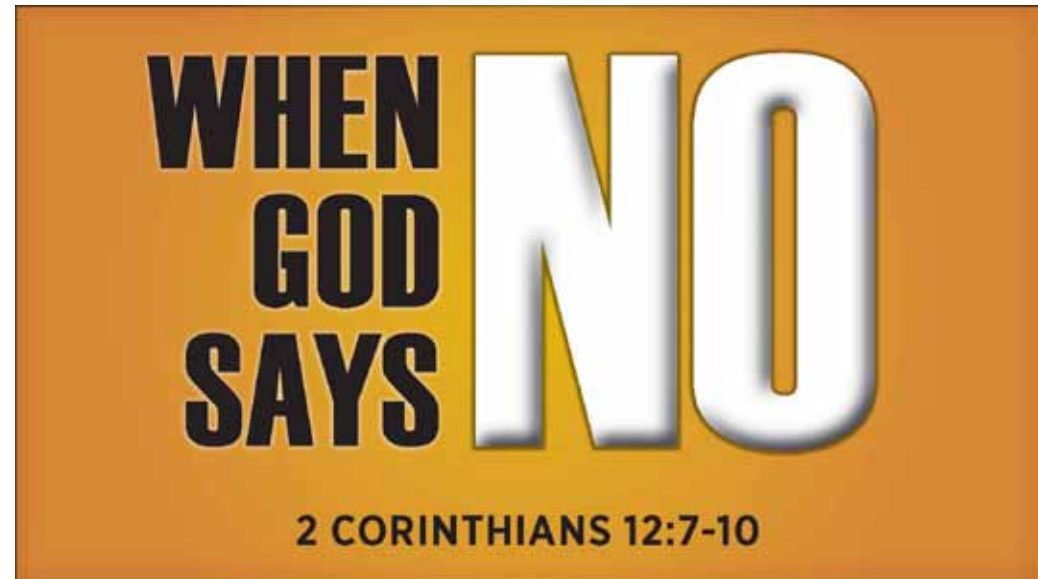
**INTRODUCTION:** *How do you face God’s “No”?*

**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 . . . because when we have a “thorn” we often don’t know what is best for us
- 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”