

Exodus 32:33 (NLT)

But the LORD replied to Moses, “No, I will erase the name of everyone who has sinned against me.”

Did God just tell Moses “No” to his request in today’s devotional verse? Yes He did. Here’s another example of when God said no to Moses

† **Deuteronomy 3:25-26** *'I pray, let me cross over and see the good land beyond the Jordan, those pleasant mountains, and Lebanon.'* **But the LORD was angry with me on your account, and would not listen to me. So the LORD said to me: 'Enough of that! Speak no more to Me of this matter.'**

How about New Testament example of God saying no to Paul?

† **2 Corinthians 12:8-10** *Concerning this thing I pleaded with the Lord three times that it might depart from me. And He said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness." Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in needs, in persecutions, in distresses, for Christ's sake. For when I am weak, then I am strong.*

Or what about this one?

† **Acts 16:6 (NLT)** *Next Paul and Silas traveled through the area of Phrygia and Galatia, because the Holy Spirit had prevented them from preaching the word in the province of Asia at that time.*

But if you think about it, we have heard many, many times that there are three answers to prayer, which are “Yes”, “No” and “Wait”. Now we love the first one when God says, “Yes” to our request right away. And we don’t care as much for the last one of “Wait”. But we figure if we have to “Wait” that eventually we will get a “Yes” answer.

But then there is the middle one, which we don’t care to much for...Ok, we just don’t like those “No” answers. But can I be honest with you and tell you that over my 30 plus years as being a Christian, I have actually learned to like those “no” answers.

“Really Steve, are you crazy?”

Hear me out and let me give you a recent example that is part of what the Lord has been doing in my life the last few years that involved a few “No” answers to my prayers.

Almost three years ago I lost my job that I had been at for over 18 years. I ask the Lord what I should do as I looked for other work. But it seemed that all I got were a bunch of

“No’s” as I looked for worked and prayed for a new job. Soon I started to sense that the Lord wanted me to do my hearts desire, which was to record the worship CD that I have always wanted to do for Him. That became a “Yes” answer, which I did over 3 years ago. When it was done, I was running out of money and was almost to the point of being broke, with unemployment about to be used up and I would end up being homeless or moving back in with my mom, and I’m way too old to do that.

So I prayed about and looked for work near me, but once again I got a “no” answer to that request. So even though I got a no answer for a job close to home, I did get a job that was 100% from the Lord, but it was also 120 miles away, and I had to go live with my sister during the week (Which was a blessing), and drive back home on the weekends. But while I was working 120 miles away, I kept praying for a job close to home so I could get back to my normal life and normal church life as well. But all I got was “no” answers from God on this request for the next four months.

Finally God said, “Yes” to something I never prayed or asked for, and that ”Yes” was the reason for the “No” answers. You see, God gave me a new job, which moved me not just 120 miles away, but almost 3,000 miles away from California to Florida. It also allowed me to make more money than I ever had, plus so many other benefits, that if I told you what they were, your jaw would drop as you would say “WOW”.

But that is what God has done, He has “Wowed” me beyond what I could ever hope for or imagined. I truly have lived out **Ephesians 3:20** which says, *Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us.*

But what if when God said “no” I shook my fist at Him and told Him that He needs to get with the program, and that He has no idea what He is doing? What if in my pleading with God that He would have given me what I had asked for, even though it wasn’t His will? If He did then right now I would be stuck in a dead-end job, with no future, and living paycheck to paycheck. Also I would have never had been able to go to, and be a part of one of my most favorite churches, Calvary Chapel Fort Lauderdale, with one of my favorite pastor’s there. Also I would not have been able to go to Israel with them, something I prayed for, for years. I would also still be in debt (I’ve been out of debt for over three years now). I would not had been able to recently buy a new keyboard, killer computer, recording program, etc. so that I could work on, not one, but two Christian CD’s at the same time, while I am working my job here in Florida. And there is so much more, all because God said “No”, and He did because He had better plans, which were beyond what I could have ever had imagined of hoped for.

I share this with you, because many of you are feeling let down or disappointed in God’s “no” answers. But can I give you some words of encouragement and tell you to start rejoicing when God says “no”. After all, look at what He did in my life after He said “no” and you can now see why He said no.

So rejoice in the “no” answer, and you’ll be rejoicing even more when He shows you why He said no. The reason is because, God says that *for I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the LORD, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a*

future and a hope. Jeremiah 29:11 Just like what He gave me, He wants to give to you *a future and a hope* as well!!!