

## 2 Cor 12:7-9 (NLT)

*even though I have received wonderful revelations from God. But to keep me from getting puffed up, I was given a thorn in my flesh, a messenger from Satan to torment me and keep me from getting proud. Three different times I begged the Lord to take it away. Each time he said, "My gracious favor is all you need. My power works best in your weakness." So now I am glad to boast about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may work through me.*

There are many things I pray about that I don't get, and sometimes I wonder why, because they seem like good requests. But still God says no to some of them, and sometimes He says to wait, whereas other times God will say yes. One of the reasons God says no is to keep us from getting puffed up or proud. Sure, God could let you win the Lotto, but is it best for you? Will it puff you up and cause you to no longer rely on God and even walk away from Him? It's very possible.

† **Proverbs 30:8-9** *Remove falsehood and lies far from me; Give me neither poverty nor riches-- Feed me with the food allotted to me; Lest I be full and deny You, And say, "Who is the LORD?" Or lest I be poor and steal, And profane the name of my God.*

Maybe you want this great ministry where you are ministering to hundreds of thousands of people. Sounds like a good request, but once again are you ready for this type of responsibility, or would it cause you to think that you have done something great and not God?

† **1 Timothy 3:6** *not a novice, lest being puffed up with pride he fall into the same condemnation as the devil.*

Maybe you have been sick and you want to get healed. Maybe it's not time to be healed, maybe it's time to rest and spend the time with the Lord. It could be the only way He has been able to get your attention lately.

† **Psalm 119:71** *It is good for me that I have been afflicted, That I may learn Your statutes.*

Now this is not always the case in God's answer to no, but it is a possibility, and if so, then we should say, *So now I am glad to boast about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may work through me.* After all, isn't that what we are truly praying for anyway!

† **Romans 15:13 (NLT2)** *I pray that God, the source of hope, will fill you completely with joy and peace because you trust in him. Then you will overflow with confident hope through the power of the Holy Spirit.*