



A Tough Talk About Prayer (Matthew 15:21-28)

"If my people, who are called by my name,
will humble themselves and pray...

I will heal their land."

2 Chronicles 7:14 (NIV)

"The earnest prayer
of a righteous person has great power
and produces wonderful results."

James 5:16 (NLT)

"Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen." Ephesians 3:20-21 (NIV)

Every prayer we pray has one of three possible answers:

1. Yes
2. No
3. Wait

Examples of God saying "No":

Abraham (Genesis 17:18)

David (2 Samuel 12:22)

Joseph (Genesis 40: 14-15)

Job (Job 30:20)

Moses (Deuteronomy 3:26)

Paul (2 Corinthians 12:8-9)

What to remember when God says NO:

1. Remember He has a better outlook.

"I am going away and I am coming back to you...I have told you now before it happens, so that when it does happen you will believe." John 14:28-29 (NIV)

"Nothing in all creation is hidden from God's sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of him to whom we must give account." Hebrews 4:13 (NIV)

"For he guards the course of the just and protects the way of his faithful ones."
Proverbs 2:8 (NIV)

2. Remember He has a greater outcome.

"Unless I go away, the Counselor will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you."
John 16:7 (NIV)

"I make known the end from the beginning, from ancient times, what is still to come. I say: My purpose will stand, and I will do all that I please." Isaiah 46:10 (NIV)

3. Remember He has a superior outline.

"These were all commended for their faith, yet none of them received what had been promised. God had planned something better for us so that only together with us would they be made perfect." Hebrews 11:39-40 (NIV)

"For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways," declares the Lord." Isaiah 55:8 (NIV)

"When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures." James 4:3 (NIV)

4. Remember His motivation is always love.

"The Lord says, 'I have loved you with an everlasting love; I have drawn you with loving-kindness.'" Jeremiah 31:3 (NIV)

"Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows." James 1:17 (NIV)

