



When You Need Healing And God Doesn't Heal

MAIN THING

To See Your Level of Spiritual Maturity, See What You Do When You Don't Get What You Want

SCRIPTURE

2 Samuel 12:16-23, Romans 8:38-39, John 16:33, John 3:16, Isaiah 55:8-9, 2 Corinthians 12:7-10

ICEBREAKER

My most unpopular opinion is

OPENING THOUGHT

One of the most confusing things about the Christian faith is the role of God in the miraculous. A miracle, by definition, is RARE. We've all had loved ones that have been sick or injured, and we pray for God to heal them. I've personally prayed for hundreds and thousands of sick or injured people- people in ICU, people who are dying, people who have a cancer diagnosis, etc. Sometimes God heals them miraculously. Most of the time He doesn't.

This has led to people doubting the power of prayer, doubting the love of God, maybe even doubting His existence. The questions abound: Why would He call us to pray and then hang us out to dry? Do we have to ask hundreds of times to be heard? What kind of father makes his kid ask him day after day after day for something he needs? We've all asked these questions. The plain and simple fact is that we've all asked God for healing and at some point, He hasn't healed.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What was the one thing that you heard this past Sunday that stuck out to you? Why did it resonate with you like it did?
2. The sermon said three things about God's "No"- it isn't a referendum on your faith, it's not a statement of God's opinion of you, and it's not unfair. Which of these statements meant the most to you? Why?
3. The sermon identified three things that we learn from God's "No"- God uses "no" to remind us of His ultimate plans, God uses "no" to keep us from experiencing the consequences of our own lack of perspective, and God uses "No" to grow my faith. When God has told you "No," which of these did you learn? Did you learn something other than what was identified here?

LIFE APPLICATION

I've found that God uses "no" to bring me into alignment with His will and His plans. It is tough realizing that God's way are not our ways and that His thoughts are higher than ours. It takes self-awareness to realize that we aren't God, don't have His perspective, and to submit our feelings and emotions and wills to His. When God says "no" it truly is because He has something better. Whatever God has said "no" to will make sense the very second you step into heaven for eternity. As C.S. Lewis said, "The first words we will utter upon our arrival to heaven will be, 'Of course.'"

CHALLENGE

God's ultimate plan for us is to save us for eternity. He is far more interested in your eternity than anything else. How can we as people bring our will into alignment with His? Second, if you have never surrendered your life to Christ and been baptized, what are you waiting for? Third, who do you know that needs the gospel? As this is God's ultimate will for us, it should be what we value most of all.