

When God Says Yes

By Lori Schaffer

I have been writing these devotions for nearly a year now. If you have been following along, you know my story and the loss and heartache I faced over the past few years. My real challenge came after my mom passed away and I was faced with a legal battle over my mother's Will. My mother and I knew this legal matter would result, so it came as no surprise. The night before my mom passed, she held my hand. She was so worried for me and what she knew I was going to be facing. I remember asking her, "mom, did you do your will the way you want?" She said, "yes", and my response was, "then you don't need to worry about this anymore, I will handle it, and I will be okay."

For a brief moment in time, I was not okay. I was panicking, angry, worried that my mother's wishes wouldn't be upheld. Fear consumed me. But then God spoke clearly to me. He said, "I wouldn't call you into this battle to abandon you." For nearly a year, I clung to that promise. I have prayed and cried out to God for Him to answer my prayers. Seriously, not a morning had gone by that I wasn't crying out to God. I began memorizing scripture, journaling, listening to praise music, praying for my accuser, doing everything I knew to do to keep my mind centered on Christ. In my prayers, I even had to accept that God may not answer in the way I was hoping and praying for. I needed to be okay with that, and I was. I just continued to pray for closure.

This writing is to tell you, without a doubt, that God hears our prayers. He knows your heart. Prayer is calling God by name and crying out to Him in the midst of your pain. Invite the Holy Spirit to move in your midst. Psalm 5:1-2 says, "Give ear to my words, O Lord, consider my meditation. Give heed to the voice of my cry, my King and my God, for to You I will pray."

I have been dreaming of the day I could write about when God says yes, when the victory comes, when the mountain finally moves. Praise God, that day has come! God worked and moved in a mighty way! On the very day that I was in the process of signing a settlement agreement to end the will contest against the estate, I received a text from my attorney with a news article attached. You see, I had been praying from the beginning for God to bring darkness to light, to reveal the criminal activities of my accusers. I prayed diligently Psalm 26. Particularly verses 1 and 2 which state, "Vindicate me O' Lord for I have walked in my integrity, and I have trusted in the Lord without wavering. Examine me oh Lord, and try me. Test my mind and my heart." At one point along the way, I was so upset and frustrated because it felt like evil always

wins out. I remember Pastor Cliff telling me, “while it may feel like that, God is the righteous judge.” In that moment of opening that text from my attorney, I sat and I just sobbed. Tears of relief, tears of praise, tears of thanksgiving. I’m sure my mom was rejoicing in heaven right along with me. In an instant, God moved. I didn’t see it coming, I had no clue, but God sure did. God’s answer was even bigger than I could have ever imagined. Darkness was brought to light. Ephesians 3:20 says, “Now to Him who is able to do far more abundantly beyond all that we ask or think, according to the power that works within us.”

If you have something you have been praying for, I encourage you not to give up. There are five keys to answered prayer.

1. Ask God in prayer
2. Have faith in God
3. Seek God’s will
4. Strive to obey God
5. Pray in Jesus’ name

Most times, God doesn’t answer our prayers the way we want. He either says yes, no, or wait. We live in a world of instant gratification. We want something, and we want it right now. Well, in case you haven’t figured it out by now, God doesn’t work by those standards. When God says no, it may just be that he has something better in store for you. Perhaps there is work that God is doing in your life. I know that if God answered my prayer immediately, I would have never grown in the Lord the way I did this past year. God used this situation to do a complete overhaul on my heart. One question to ask yourself, do your prayers align with God’s purpose? If they don’t, then God certainly isn’t going to answer them. To understand His purpose, to the best of our ability, one must open the bible - to read it - to understand it - to pray it. Have you said yes to God? How can we expect Him to say yes to us if we have said no to Him?

If you have not yet said yes to God, perhaps today is the day you do so. Say yes to God first thing each morning. Start your day with spending time in His word. It doesn’t take long, just 10 quick minutes. Seek God’s presence and find satisfaction in Him. I am ashamed to admit it took me nearly 29 years of being a Christian to establish a daily routine. But thanks be to God, I finally did it, and it has made a huge difference in my life, and I know it will make a huge difference in yours. Say yes to God today. Seek Him, draw near to Him. Allow Him to comfort you in your pain. Pray to Him without ceasing, and when the moment comes that He says yes to your prayers, praise Him and shout it out! Our God is faithful and He keeps his promises. Faith is believing that God can make the most impossible situations turn around for our good and His glory. My situation felt impossible. There was nothing I could do but to pray and ask God to move. It wasn’t quick, it wasn’t pain free, and it wasn’t easy. It was life altering and

heart changing. When God said yes, and answered my prayers, I knew it was because I said yes to Him.

When God says yes to you, to whatever it is that you have been praying for, whether it be something big or small, celebrate it! Praise God for it! Your story is a testament to God's faithfulness. It is an open door for you to share Him with the world around you. People need to know that God does answer prayers, and your situation is proof. 2 Corinthians 10:17 says. "But he who boasts is to boast in the Lord". Give God the glory he is due and praise Him!