



## **Part 6**

**Things to Remember  
When God Says “No”  
to Righteous Prayers**

# Matthew 26:36

Then Jesus went with them to the olive grove called Gethsemane, and he said, “Sit here while I go over there to pray.”

# Matthew 26:37

He took Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, James and John, along with him, and he began to be sorrowful and troubled.

# Matthew 26:38

He told them, “My soul is crushed with grief to the point of death. Stay here and keep watch with me.”

# Mark 14:35

He went on a little farther and fell to the ground. He prayed that, if it were possible, the awful hour awaiting him might pass him by.

# Mark 14:36

“Abba, Father,” he cried out,  
“everything is possible for you. Please  
take this cup of suffering away from  
me. Yet I want your will to be done,  
not mine.”

# Matthew 26:40

Then he returned to the disciples and found them asleep. He said to Peter, “Couldn’t you watch with me even one hour?”



# Matthew 26:41

Keep watch and pray, so that you will not give in to temptation. For the spirit is willing, but the body is weak!”

# Matthew 26:42

Then Jesus left them a second time and prayed, “My Father! If this cup cannot be taken away unless I drink it, your will be done.”

# Matthew 26:43

When he returned to them again, he found them sleeping, for they couldn't keep their eyes open.

# Matthew 26:44

So he left them and went away once more and prayed the third time, saying the same thing.

# Matthew 26:45

Then he came to the disciples and said, “Go ahead and sleep. Have your rest. But look—the time has come. The Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners.

# Matthew 26:46

Up, let's be going.

Look, my betrayer is here!”



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**Our theology about who God  
is and what the Christian life  
is really like, must be  
derived from the lessons  
learned and shared by the  
**ENTIRETY** of the Bible**

# Principle #1

**Every “no” to righteous prayer that God gives has its own context and its own meaning.**

# Matthew 7:7

Keep on asking, and you will receive what you ask for. Keep on seeking, and you will find. Keep on knocking, and the door will be opened to you.

# Matthew 7:8

For everyone who asks, receives.  
Everyone who seeks, finds. And to  
everyone who knocks, the door will  
be opened.

# Matthew 7:9

You parents—if your children ask for a loaf of bread, do you give them a stone instead?

# Matthew 7:10

Or if they ask for a fish, do you give them a snake? Of course not!

# **Matthew 7:11**

**So if you sinful people know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give good gifts to those who ask him.**



# Isaiah 59:1

Listen! The Lord's arm is not too weak to save you, nor is his ear too deaf to hear you call.

# Isaiah 59:2

It's your sins that have cut you off  
from God. Because of your sins,  
he has turned away and  
will not listen anymore.

# John 9:31

We know that God doesn't listen to sinners, but he is ready to hear those who worship him and do his will.

# Principle #1

**Every “no” to righteous prayer that God gives has its own context and its own meaning.**

# Principle #2

**We must stop jumping to negative conclusions about God or His motives when He answers our righteous prayer with a “no.”**

**As our emotions are evoked by  
God's "no" to our righteous prayer,  
we must never allow our emotions  
to override the truth of the  
scriptures, much less the proven  
character of Abba Father.**

# Principle #3

**We must stop jumping to negative conclusions about ourselves or about our standing before God when He answers our righteous prayer with a “no.”**

**Sometimes God's "no" to our righteous prayer right now, is necessary to transform our current relationship with God into a more intimate and loving relationship with Him in the future.**



# Principle #4

**God's "no" to righteous prayer  
is never about rejection  
but redirection.**

# Principle #5

**If what you're praying about doesn't change as fast as you would like or if it doesn't change at all, loosen your grip and let go of your attempt to control the situation.**

# Principle #6

**When God says “no” to our righteous prayer we must remember that God is infinitely more invested in our spiritual needs than our physical needs.**

# Principle #7

**Sometimes God's "no" to our  
righteous prayer isn't actually a "no"  
but a "not right now."**

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