



## Saying “Yes” to God’s “No”



The apostle Paul, an amazing example of what it means to be content in all circumstances and who literally changed the world by sharing the Gospel, spoke about the “thorn in his side.” Some scholars believe Paul’s “thorn” was a form of chronic illness, but no matter what it was, the thorn caused great difficulty for Paul, and it caused him great pain.

Why would the Lord allow Paul, a man doing such amazing work for the Kingdom, to experience such significant pain? Wouldn’t it make more sense for God to take Paul’s pain away?

And what about my pain - my “thorn”? Is contentment really possible?

### Key Take-Aways:

1. My pain (my weakness) humbles me.
2. My pain is an adversary.
3. My pain invites me to embrace the sovereignty/authority of God.
4. My pain provides opportunity for me to glorify God.
5. My pain is actually to be embraced, over time, as a blessing.

### Suggested Personal Reading:

- 2 Corinthians 12:7-10
- Philippians 4:13
- Psalm 138:3
- 1 Peter 1:3-9

## Questions to Consider:

1. Have you ever asked God to take away your pain?
2. How do you deal with being the weak one, the one in pain, the one with limitations, the burden?
3. Do you ever struggle with the sovereignty or authority of God?
4. Have you seen God glorified through your pain?
5. Is your pain an adversary or a blessing - or both? Why?

## Pray

Gracious, loving Father,

As I sense your “no,” help me to rest in the knowledge that for today, “no” is Your answer, and help me to trust in Your plan and in Your perfect timing. For today, I choose to focus on the unmistakable gift of Your strength at work in me. Help me to ***say “yes” to the “no”***.

Amen

## Further Resources

- **Timothy Keller - Radical Imperative - Born into Hope**  
<https://youtu.be/PNp4oQJ4Njg>
- **Jill Briscoe - Say “Yes” to the “No”** - <https://youtu.be/ZkClSi fWq4>