



82. *An Answer of No*

Paul wrote, *“Because of the surpassing greatness of the revelations, for this reason, to keep me from exalting myself, there was given me a thorn in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to torment me - to keep me from exalting myself! Concerning this I implored the Lord three times that it might leave me. And He has said to me, ‘My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness.’ Most gladly, therefore, I will rather boast about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me. Therefore I am well content with weaknesses, with insults, with distresses, with persecutions, with difficulties, for Christ's sake; for when I am weak, then I am strong,”*
1 Corinthians 12:7.

Paul prayed three times that God would heal him ... but God's answer was *no*. Sometimes God's answer is *no*. Moses pleaded with the Lord that He would let him enter the land. But God emphatically told Moses that he could not go in ... saying, "*Enough! Speak to Me no more of this matter,*" Deuteronomy 3:26.

Paul and Moses heard God's answer. No answer from God is *not* an answer of *no*. So, be persistent until you have an answer. But don't persist after God answers *no*. Stop asking when God says *no* ... and trust Him. Sometimes a *no* is better for you than a *yes*. Trust God even if it seems that He has given a scorpion to you when you asked for an egg. Trust Him. He knows what is best for you. "*For we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose,*" Romans 8:28.