

Sisters for Yah

WHEN YAHWEH SAYS NO

(submitted anonymously)

Do you have trouble accepting Yahweh's will when His answer is no? I know I sure do! It's been said that Yahweh always answers prayers. Sometimes His answer is yes. Sometimes no. And sometimes wait. The waiting part can be hard for the majority of us. There are times Yahweh wants us to persist in prayer until He has completed His work in us. See Luke 11:5-8; 18:1-6.

We are Yahweh's children and He loves us. Yet we get disappointed when our prayers are not answered how we think they should be. Even earthly parents know that they can't give their children every little thing they ask for. Some things are just not good for children!

I think of Paul. He asked three times for his thorn in the flesh to be removed. But Yahweh's grace was sufficient for him. Paul realized that it was futile to continue pleading for a yes. It is hard to take no for an answer. Some insist that if you pray long enough or hard enough, then Yahweh is obligated to grant any request you make, whether good or bad. The purpose of prayer is not to conform Yahweh to our will, but to conform us to His will. Indeed, it behooves us to learn to trust Yahweh so that if He says no, we accept that His will is best.

The problem with us humans is that we cannot see the end from the beginning. But Yahweh can. Many people have prayed for wealth, a husband or wife, jobs, etc. They think that receiving these will somehow make their lives perfect or happy. But when these things are provided, oftentimes the recipient simply gets a whole new set of problems. I knew a man who wanted a wife really badly. He prayed for decades. Finally a wife was provided. Then his life was even more miserable than before he got married. He regretted asking Yahweh for a wife. Likewise, people have prayed for certain jobs. Once provided, the jobs turned out to be a stumbling block, even causing some to give up Yahweh's way of life. Most importantly we

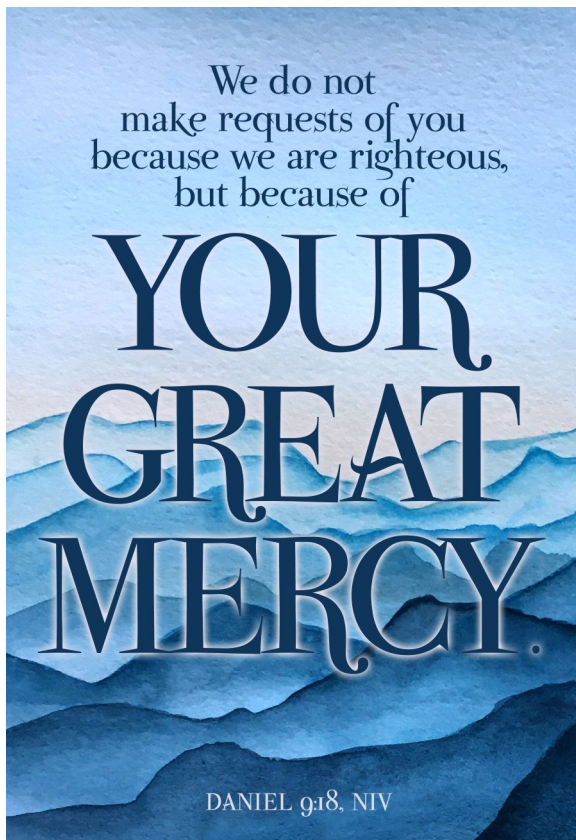
need to pray that Yahweh's will be done in our lives. We can also ask Yahweh to help us accept His answer, no matter what it is. And we can rest assured that Yahweh only wants what's best for us.



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What's so special about mercy?



Read Matthew 18:33, which says, *Should you not also have had compassion on your fellow servant, just as I had pity on you?*

Mercy is a gift. It is undeserved. Punishment and consequences are sin's just reward, but the merciful person does not demand justice for the guilty person. If it were not for Yahweh's mercy, we all would have faced His terrible judgment long ago. If not for His mercy, He would have condemned us after our first offense. If not for His mercy, He would punish us each time we sin, instead of forgiving us when we repent. Yahshua perfectly demonstrated mercy when He willingly died for our sins. He paid the penalty that we deserved.

Do you find it hard to show mercy? Many of us do. It may even be a struggle for us to comprehend the mercy that Yahweh has shown us. In fact, Yahshua told His disciples to extend the same mercy to others that they received from Yahweh. When they considered the incredible, undeserved mercy they had been granted, how could they refuse to extend the same unconditional mercy to others?

We all have sinned against Yahweh. Could anyone sin against us to the same degree that we have sinned against Yahweh? Could any offense committed against us be as undeserved as the abuse hurled against the sinless Son of Yahweh? How quickly we forget the mercy that Yahweh graciously bestowed upon us, only to focus on the injustices we endure from others.

If you find it difficult to forgive others, try meditating on the mercy of Yahweh. Scripture tells us that Yahweh is "ready to pardon." In addition, we are also told that He is gracious and merciful, and slow to anger. On top of all that, Yahweh is abundant in lovingkindness. Let's follow His perfect example when dealing with others.

Great in the Kingdom?

I'm always amazed when I read Luke 22:27: *For who is greater, he who sits at the table, or he who serves? Is it not he who sits at the table? Yet I am among you as One who serves.*

All I can say is, "Wow!" It's very obvious that the measure of greatness in Yahweh's Kingdom differs vastly from that of the world. Our fallen world idolizes the rich, the powerful, the beautiful, and the athletic. Yet many powerful people, including celebrities, flaunt their immorality. It is very difficult to find a conservative celebrity. The world claims it is demeaning to serve others. However, in Yahweh's Kingdom, the world's measure for esteem will be completely rejected. The greatest honor will be given to those who serves the most.

We are to serve selflessly, lovingly, without complaint, and without seeking recognition. The world will wrongly estimate your importance by the number of people serving you. Yahweh is more concerned that you are serving other people. Ask Yahweh to give you a "servant's heart." Yahshua invites all of us to join Him in serving others.

This too shall pass

I read a rather humorous quote recently which quipped, “This too shall pass, but it might pass like a kidney stone.” Now, I’ve never had a kidney stone, but I know several people who have had them, including my husband. Kidney stones are excruciating. In fact, one lady told me that when she passed a kidney stone, it was more painful than childbirth. Indeed, my husband told me it was the most painful experience he’d been through. I hope I never have to deal with kidney stones.

But I have dealt with trials throughout my life. Painful trials, annoying trials, confusing trials, etc. Many of the trials I’ve been through have indeed passed ... painfully, like a kidney stone. Some of the trials have never passed (yet), but I’ve made peace with accepting Yahweh’s will in these matters. Do I hope that these seemingly never-ending trials pass eventually? Of course. But I’ve realized that I can still enjoy certain aspects about life, despite enduring trials. Years ago, I knew a man who was experiencing tremendous trials. He never gave up on Yahweh no matter what he endured. In fact, he would often call to encourage me with Scripture. And he would tell me about the things in life he was enjoying, despite the trials. Working on his garden, listening to inspiring praise and worship music, enjoying good food, and spending time with his pets.

I learned a lot from this brother in the faith. He passed away not too long ago, but I still remember his fortitude in Yahweh. He was resilient and unwavering in his faith. I shamefully admit that I really need to work on this in my life. My walk with Yahshua is definitely not perfect. I fall short daily. But as I continue to grow in my faith, I pray I can look back and say, “Despite my hardships, I still stayed strong in Yahweh.”

Habbakuk: I will rejoice!

At times it seems that everything around us is collapsing. Endeavors we invest in may fail. People you spend time ministering to, still end up leaving the faith. Not to mention the calamities we see on the news in living color. I think of Habakkuk. He witnessed the collapse or what most mattered to him. Yet through loss, failure, and disappointment, he was able to distinguish between what was precious to him, and what was transitory and empty. Habakkuk realized that he could say that everything around him failed, but he would still rejoice in Yahweh. If the fig tree bore no fruit; if the vine produced no grapes; if the flocks and herds stopped reproducing; he would still praise Yahweh.

Habakkuk’s praise may not have come easily, as he watched everything fall short of his expectations, but he determined to praise Yahweh nonetheless. Habakkuk no doubt realized that he could not make fig trees produce figs. He could not control the productivity of flocks and herds, but he could control his response to Yahweh. He chose to praise Him.

I find it hard to rejoice and praise when things are going bad. But we must be willing to strive in that healthy direction. It’s not wrong to grieve when things go bad. But Yahweh is in control. He will comfort us in our deepest longings and trials. Keep your hand in His, and don’t let go.

THE BEATITUDES

“Rejoice
and be glad,
for your reward
is great in
heaven.”

Matthew 5:12, ESV

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Corn Casserole

- 1 packet or box 8 ounce corn muffin mix (check ingredients carefully! Some contain lard, which we need to avoid)
- 1 can corn, drained
- 1 can creamed corn, undrained
- 1 cup sour cream
- 1/2 cup butter, melted

Heat oven to 350 degrees. Lightly grease an 8 inch by 8 inch pan. Mix all the ingredients together. Pour into prepared baking pan. Bake about 45 to 55 minutes until cooked through. Makes a nice side dish. Some people add a cup of cheese to the mix for variety.



Easy Apple Salad

- 4 apples, chopped
- 1 lemon, juiced
- 1/3 cup mayonnaise
- 1 1/2 T. brown sugar
- 2 celery stalks, thinly sliced
- 1 cup grapes, halved
- 1/2 cup chopped nuts or sunflower seeds
- 1/2 cup dried cranberries or dried cherries
- 1 cup mini kosher marshmallows, optional

Mix it all up in a large bowl and enjoy!

Onion Chicken



- 1/2 cup melted butter
- 1 T. Worcestershire sauce
- 1 t. ground mustard
- 1 can (2.8 ounce) French-fried onions, crushed
- 4 chicken breasts



Grease 11 by 17 pan. Put butter, Worcestershire sauce and mustard in a shallow bowl. Put crushed onions in another shallow bowl dip chicken in butter mixture, then onions. Place in pan. Bake at 400 degrees until chicken is cooked through, about 25 minutes. Check to make sure the middle is cooked all the way.