

Great Expectations
How To Keep Your Faith Alive When God Says No

1. Remember every _____

- Yes
- Yes, but take care of something first
- Yes, but wait for the right time

- No and you _____

Isaiah 55:8-9 *“My thoughts are nothing like your thoughts,” says the LORD. “And my ways are far beyond anything you could imagine. For just as the heavens are higher than the earth, so my ways are higher than your ways and my thoughts higher than your thoughts.”*

- No because it’s not _____

2 Corinthians 12:8-9 *Three different times I begged the Lord to take it away. Each time he said, “My grace is all you need. My power works best in weakness.” So now I am glad to boast about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ can work through me.*

- No because it’s _____

Matthew 26:39 *He went on a little farther and bowed with his face to the ground, praying, “My Father! If it is possible, let this cup of suffering be taken away from me. Yet I want your will to be done, not mine.”*

2. _____

- a) Be honest with God _____

Habakkuk 1:1-4 *O Lord, how long shall I cry for help, and you will not listen? Or cry to you ‘Violence!’ and you will not save?*

- b) _____ back in your mind
- c) Take a step of faith

I Thessalonians 5:18 *...give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.*

- d) Make it about the _____

Job 13:15 *Though he slay me, yet will I hope in him...*

“God, I don’t know why you said no to my request, but I still believe in you. I know you love me even though this hurts. I know you have a reason for this even though I can’t see it. So before I see anything, I want you to know that I will keep following you and I will keep trusting in you.”

4 Big Prayer Killers

*Bitterness or an unforgiving spirit

-Do I need to forgive someone else? – Mark 11:25

*Wanting something in this life more than you want God

-Do I need to put God in first place in my life? – Matt 6:33

*Disobedience - You are doing something you know you shouldn’t be doing or ignoring something you know you should be doing

-Do I need to ask for forgiveness? – Psalm 66:18

*Unbelief – You don’t expect God to do anything anyway

-Do I really believe God will answer me? – Matthew 21:22

Develop the habit of praying 5 minutes a day

P – Praise God for who He is and what He’s done. Thank God for at least 10 things.

R – Repent of any wrong thoughts, attitudes or actions. Tell Him you are sorry and ask for His help.

A – Ask! Ask God to move the mountains in your life and in the lives of others. Buy a notebook. Write “ASK” at the top of the page. Put a date by everything you are asking and make the request VERY specific so you will know when God has answered it. Then put a date by it and watch your faith grow.

Y – Yield your future to God. Tell Him that you want His will to be done. Create a page in your notebook and write the word “Seek” at the top. Then ask God questions and tell Him you are seeking His will on your key decisions.

Habakkuk 3:17-18 *“Though the fig tree does not bud and there are no grapes on the vines, though the olive crop fails and the fields produce no food, though there are no sheep in the pen and no cattle in the stalls, yet I will rejoice in the Lord, I will be joyful in God my savior.”*