



Roger Ellis | Lead Pastor  
**When God says, "No."**  
2 Corinthians 12:7-10

*lifeline hope*  
THE PROMISE OF HOPE IN THE MIDST OF REALITY

**Hope is the confident expectation of a positive outcome despite overwhelming evidence to the contrary.**

**Why would God say, "No"?**

1. My pain (my weakness) \_\_\_\_\_ (7-8).
2. My pain chases \_\_\_\_\_ (7).
3. My pain invites me to embrace \_\_\_\_\_ (9).
4. My pain provides opportunity \_\_\_\_\_ (9-10).
5. My pain is actually to be embraced, \_\_\_\_\_ (9-10).

**THE ONE THING:**

*Miss something?* Completed sermon notes are available online. Binders to organize your sermon notes are available at the upstairs Welcome Desk.

**NEXT STEPS**

- Memorize 2 Corinthians 12:9-10.
- Visit the booth in the back today.
- Go to [www.chronic-joy.org](http://www.chronic-joy.org) for more information.
- Pray for people with chronic illness.

**NOTES FOR PERSONAL & SMALL GROUP STUDY**

**1 KEEPING IT REAL**

Describe a trial or struggle that was too big for you to handle on your own.

**2 LOOK AT THE BOOK**

Paul opens his discussion about a thorn in the flesh with, "Because of the surpassing greatness of the revelations..." (2 Corinthians 12:7). Discuss whether the surpassing greatness of the revelations was unique to Paul's experience or has general application among believers.

**3**

In Psalm 31:9-13, David speaks of distress, grief, sorrow, a body wasting away, being a reproach and an object of dread, forgotten as a dead man. Read Psalm 31 and discuss David's confession amidst his struggles.

**4 TAKING IT FURTHER**

In whatever trials or struggles you are facing at the moment, confess Jesus as your refuge, strength and source of hope over those trials and struggles.

**WORSHIP LYRICS**

If you'd like to spend more time with the lyrics from any of the songs this morning, please click on the song title below to continue worshipping.

- [You Never Let Go](#)
- [Counting Every Blessing](#)
- [Open Up Our Eyes](#)