



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) humbles me (7-8).
2. My pain chases me to Jesus (7).
3. My pain invites me to embrace the sovereignty of God (9).
4. My pain provides opportunity for me to glorify God (9-10).
5. My pain is actually to be embraced, over time as a blessing (9-10).

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THE ONE THING: We are not alone.
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NEXT STEPS

- Memorize 2 Corinthians 12:9-10.
- Visit the booth in the back today.
- Go to 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](#)