



## When God Says No

My earliest memories are of music. I have vivid musical remembrances as far back as 12 months old. Music was as much a need to me as was food and shelter. It still is. My mom had an old 78RPM recording of the Schubert unfinished symphony which I completely wore out by the age of four.

Although I had no way of realizing it at the time, music was bringing me closer to the God whom I did not even know existed. Music has the power to convey thoughts and feelings that are not possible to convey any other way, and I have witnessed countless lives transformed through music. Mine included.

It can be quite easily demonstrated how music is “born” from nature, and therefore, in my mind anyway, it is just as easily demonstrated that this “universal” language is an invention of and gift from the living God in Heaven.

It is never my intention or desire to talk about “me” in these articles, and I do so now only with great reluctance and a plea to hear me out, for in order to make my point, I must first clothe it in a personal perspective.

Growing up, my heroes were people named Beethoven, Schubert, Handel, and dozens of other mystical beings who possessed the power to transfigure my spirit, and in so doing, transport me to far away places and times, and granting brief glimpses of what surely must be heaven.

I idolized all those in my life who wished to impart to me those mysteries contained in music. From my very first grade school music teacher (Barbara Belton), my first piano teacher (Lois Reid)

all the way to great teachers along the way such as Leonard Bernstein, Aaron Copland, and many others whose names few people have ever heard of.

From the age of two, I knew exactly what I wanted to be when I grew up. I wanted to be a composer. I wanted to be the one who composed those indescribably beautiful melodies. There was no doubt whatsoever in my mind that music came from God.

Please stay with me— I am almost done with all of this “me” stuff. So I determined early on that I was going to be a composer. All through grade school and High School I excelled way above my classmates in music. In High School I was privileged to be able to study with the likes of Thomas Briccetti who was the assistant conductor of the Indianapolis Symphony orchestra, and those experiences are some of the richest of my life.

When I was accepted into the then prestigious Indiana University School of Music, I felt that I had arrived. My dream was coming true. I was going to be a composer! Now it was time to put my faith to work. But there was a problem. Actually there were two problems.

First of all, my faith up to this point had been in myself, not God. Secondly, and much harder to accept, I learned quickly that I was not a composer.

How could this be? I had spent my entire life preparing for this role only to discover that I lacked the one thing I needed to compose music: the ability to compose music!

It has been one of the hardest lessons I have had to learn. God sometimes has

other plans for our lives. But we are hardly alone. The Bible is full of stories of great characters who had to learn the same lesson.

Just look at David— a man after God’s own heart. David had returned the ark of God up to Jerusalem and back to the people of Israel. And it began to bother him that the ark of God was in a tent while he, David, lived in the lap of luxury.

So David determined that he would build a permanent residence for God in which he could house all the sacred furniture. David said, “It isn’t fitting that the king should live in this lovely cedar dwelling and the Ark, the very presence of Jehovah Himself, should be in a little tent out there. I will build a house for God. I want to build a temple in His honor.” God had never dwelt in a permanent house, and David resolved to do something about that.

From everything we know about him, David had no ulterior motive here. He had no selfish ambition. He had no desire to make a name for himself or his family. As a matter of fact, he wanted to exalt no other name but God in building this house.

David had a great idea, and it was the right idea for all the right reasons, but God said *no*. God had other plans. What a blow that must have for David!

If you will recall, 2Sam7:4 and onward contains God response to David’s plan. God says to David, *“David, you will know the delight of having a son by whom this temple will be built. Not through your efforts, but through your son the dream will be fulfilled.”*

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Al needs our prayer and support. Let's be there for him as he is always there for us.

Mark's friend Bob is losing his battle with cancer. Prayers are needed for all concerned.

Sister Bette is having difficulties with her medications and needs prayer and encouragement.

Our dear brother Jack is not doing well and needs our prayers and support.

John's cousin, Penny Abel, is rapidly losing her battle with cancer.

Please pray for Jeff & Sandy as they take up their new lives in Illinois.

Please also remember to pray for Max Horrocks and Christopher Gagnon that they might return to the Lord.

### Keep it Clean

Let's do our part in keeping our building clean. Please keep your area clean, and pitch in when you see a need. We shouldn't put everything off on those who volunteer to clean the building.

### Perpetual Prayer List

This month's perpetual prayer list contains a couple of new names. Please be sure to add them to your prayer list. These are people whom we need to remember regularly and often, in addition to those listed above who have new issues and concerns. Please bring the following names before God:

- Alex Chambers
- Mia Cook
- Jack Horrocks
- Max Horrocks
- Louise Johnson
- Bette Oney-Self
- Leroy Provines
- Sharron Smith
- Jeff Whittington
- Ashley Wood

Times are tough, and getting tougher. Let's all join together and make sure that our brethren's needs are being met.

Some might be too embarrassed to ask for help. They shouldn't have to ask- we should know what is going on in the lives of those we love the most.

*We serve an awesome God, and He is so good to give us what we ask for so much of the time. Remember that we should praise Him whether he answers our prayers the way we would like or not.*

### Verse of the Month:

John 6:27-29

<sup>27</sup> "Do not work for food that spoils, but for food that endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you. For on him God the Father has placed his seal of approval." <sup>28</sup> Then they asked him, "What must we do to do the works God requires?" <sup>29</sup> Jesus answered, "The work of God is this: to believe in the one he has sent."

## September Birthdays and Anniversaries

Lauren 6<sup>th</sup>

Elizabeth 18<sup>th</sup>

Hatti 20<sup>th</sup>

Brianna 24<sup>th</sup>

Building Cleaning This Month:

Warner

Communion Prep For September:

Holsapple

WWW.  
WSIDECOC  
.ORG

# For Kids!

## People, Places, and Things

M M W K A D E S H S A N C T I F Y  
W D B V D Z Z B R C H R I S T N G  
W L I P F E F L E I R B A G L T N  
Z N H A U N A C M Z T F N E R R E  
E K I N B N M C Y W R L H X P A E  
J T K M E A C T O L H C N Y J N U  
H Q M O A C Y L J N A B Q B O S Q  
J L X L C T A C E R V E M I B F T  
C Y A A L N K E X A R L Z O W I Q  
Q B C S K V L Y P T N E C Q L G S  
M L L B J P T N N T K A F C C U E  
E C O A E Q R A D L J Z L A D R X  
R Y J R B K T Q F M F A D A T E R  
C R R K D H O L F L A R H S M D E  
Y H J K A J M Y T V H H R I N J X  
N X K N Z T K Q T L A G E M O K K

Created Just for the great kids at the Westside Church of Christ

Absalom

Ham

Omega

Vine

Balaam

Isaac

Peace

Wither

Christ

Jacob

Queen

Xerxes

Deacon

Kadesh

Rachel

Yoke

Eleazar

Lord

Sanctify

Zion

Faith

Mercy

Transfigured

# THE 10 COMMANDMENTS

PART 4

Exodus 20:8, the fourth commandment, concerns the time of worship. We Christians understand that God is to be served and honored *daily*, but one day in seven is to be particularly dedicated to his honor, and spent in his service.

*“Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy; in it thou shalt do no manner of work”* It is taken for granted that the Sabbath was instituted before this time. We read of God's blessing and sanctifying a seventh day from the beginning in Gen 2:3, so that this was not the enacting of a new law, but the reviving of an old law.

First of all, they are told what is the day they must observe: a seventh after six days labor. Whether this was the seventh by computation from the *first* seventh, or from the day of their coming out of Egypt, or both, is not certain. While it is almost impossible to prove either way, the Sabbath seems to have changed when Israel came out of Egypt, and this change continued until our Lord rose again.

Secondly, this commandment deals with *how* it must be observed— that is, as a day of *rest*. They were to do no manner of work on this day. As a holy day, set apart to the honor of the holy God, it was to be spent exclusively in holy exercises.

Thirdly, who must observe it? *“Thou and thy son and thy daughter...”* The wife is not mentioned here— perhaps because she is supposed to be *one* with the husband, and present with him, and if he sanctifies the Sabbath, it is taken for granted she will join with him. But the rest of the family is included in it— children and servants must keep it according to their age and capacity. In this, as in other instances of religion, it is expected that masters of families should take care, not only to serve the Lord themselves, but that their houses also should serve Him.

God has given us an example of rest after six days work— He rested the seventh day, and rejoiced in the work of his hand, in order to teach us that on this day, we are to delight in Him, and to give Him the glory for His works.

The Sabbath began in the finishing of the work of creation, and so the everlasting Sabbath continues in the finishing of the work of providence and redemption.

Even though it is no longer a “sin” to work on the Sabbath, the idea of one day out of seven devoted to God alone is an idea we should never get away from. It is necessary to worship Him every day however.

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It is not a question of sin here. It is not God's judgment that is coming upon David as a consequence of wrong. It is simply God's redirecting David's plan and saying, "This is a great resolve, but I say 'no' to you and I say 'yes' to your son. Now accept that."

So then, was David wrong to begin with? Wrong in thinking of building the temple? It is not a question of being wrong. It's a question of accepting God's "no" and living with the mystery of His will.

We people on this earth package everything. And we expect God to package His plan for us just like we would. We want the logic that we use to be His logic. And when it isn't, we wonder what's wrong because it's not working out like we would have worked it out.

When God says no it is not necessarily discipline or rejection. It may simply be re-

*direction*. You have pursued His will; you have wanted to do His will. With all good intentions you may have said, "By God's grace I am going to pursue this." And here you are, thirty or forty years later, or maybe only five years later, and it hasn't materialized.

Sadly, there are many in the Church who will be of little or no help. They will say things like, "See? You put your will above God's and just look at the mess you are in." Thanks a lot.

The thing we have to do in our walk with God is to listen carefully from *day to day*— not just go back to some decision and say, "That's it! I quit!"

We need to look at it every *day*, keep it fresh, keep the fire hot, keep it on the back burner, always asking, "Lord, is this Your arrangement? Is this Your plan? If it is not, make me sensitive to it." Maybe He's redirecting our lives.

## For Our Guests:

### What to Expect During Today's Worship Service

#### Singing

We sing “a cappella” (without any instruments). This may be new to you, and if you are wondering why we do it this way, feel free to ask any of us. We encourage you to join in, even if you don't know the songs. But don't feel *obligated*; you are welcome to just sit and listen.

#### Lord's Supper

Communion is an important part of our worship *each and every week*. This is a celebration of the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus. In this simple memorial, we remember the sacrifice He made for our sins.

#### Offering

The work here at Westside is supported by the free will offerings of our members, as directed in scripture. You are not expected to make a donation, just pass the basket to the person sitting next to you.

#### Preaching

The sermon will be 30-35 minutes long, and will be grounded on scripture. Should you have any questions about what is taught here, please ask! We love to talk about our awesome God. After the sermon, an invitation will be given for those who desire to be Baptized. At this time, we will stand and sing a song. Please do not feel uncomfortable; you will not be singled out in any way.

#### Expected of you:

**Nothing!** We are honored that you chose to be with us today. Please take a minute after services to let us say hello to you!

Welcome to the  
Westside Church of Christ!

1301 Enterprise Ln.  
Bloomington, Indiana 47403  
Neil Tremblett, Preacher

**812-360-1399**

Sunday Morning Bible Study — 9:30 A.M.  
Sunday Morning Worship — 10:30 A.M.  
Sunday Evening Worship — 5:00 P.M.

Wednesday Evening Bible Study — 7:00 P.M.

**You are most welcome— please join us!**