



Just Say “YES”!

A Devotion Promoting Christian Principles and Practices

By Gerald Cumby

This devotion explores spiritual growth through saying "YES" to God's plans, trusting His guidance, and persevering through life's difficulties. Drawing on biblical passages like 2 Corinthians 5:8 and Proverbs 3:5-6, it emphasizes that God's provision and placement in our lives are not always easy, but are meant for our growth and maturity. The main goal of this devotion is to encourage believers to reflect on past experiences, resist the adversary, and actively share God's love with others. Ultimately, it calls for living a life of faith, witnessing to others, and staying committed to God's purpose, while rejecting ungodly temptations.

In the 1980s and 1990s, campaigns encouraged young people to reject mind altering drugs that, in the end, would carry them into a world of degradation and ungodly practices. In 2002, Dan Bailey introduced the "Yes" (Youth Equipped to Succeed) campaign, which continues today through the Youth Development Program. This initiative has provided over 5.8 million youth with resources that build hope, connection, and success. The program is recognized for effectively empowering today's youth for the future.

In taking the subject matter (Just say, “Yes”) to a much higher standard than a program or organizational tool might take you, I want to emphasize the spiritual and God inspired level of living life. As you will see, it is an eternal response (Just say, “Yes”) to God’s plan for success in meeting our earthly responsibilities as well as the final flight to God’s Kingdom...heaven with God and His Son being worshipped and highly praised. With Him, hope and faith become sight and we will be successfully connected forever.

Let's look at some positive alternatives to the life where there are unimaginably gross sins being carried out by millions of the sinners of this world. Actually, it should be understood that "all (me and you) have sinned and have come short of the glory of God..." Therefore, we are no better than the other person making mistake after mistake and failing to meet God's standards of doing life. The only thing that gives us a light at the end of a dark and dreary tunnel is that God gives us a choice to accept His plan of salvation. God knew even before we were born that all of us would make the choice to sin in the world in which we live. Without God's Spirit in us, our choices have no magnet holding us back from thinking and doing things that we don't know why we are doing them, or saying the ungodly words coming out of our mouths, or hearing, seeing, or touching the forbidden fruit that has surrounded us as we move about in the world where our adversary, Satan, abides. *"For when we were in the flesh, the sinful passions which were aroused by the law were at work in our members to bear fruit to death" Romans 7:5. "But sin, taking opportunity by the commandment, produced in me all manner of evil desire" Romans 7:8a.* Satan is prodding, promoting, pestering, and pushing us to the brink of successfully fulfilling his eternal purpose...damnation of the soul. BUT, there are alternatives to living a life with a destructive and devastating outcome.

Alternative 1: *God has a plan for us if we will only accept and say, "YES" to His eternal promise of heaven with the King of Kings and Lord of Lords. God's grace and mercy give us a wonderful choice of breaking the chains of the enemy, Satan. Saying, "YES" to believing with all our heart and soul that Jesus is God's Son. We say, "YES", I believe Jesus died and was buried in a tomb; however, I also believe that Jesus was resurrected to new life and has made it possible for us to do likewise.*

John 11:25-26, "Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live. ²⁶ And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die. Do you believe this?"

*I say, **Yes!** What about you?*

We will die (our bodies and its functions that keep us going); however, our soul and spirit will be resurrected and will immediately be with Jesus.

2 Corinthians 5:8, *"We are confident, **yes**, well pleased rather to be absent from the body and to be present with the Lord."*

Alternative 2: *God's "YES" plan includes a provision that He will always be looking out for us and will place us in places where we best can grow and mature in the Lord.*

“Placing us in places” does not mean that we are provided the easiest way out or requiring us to understand exactly where we are in relation to “those places” we find ourselves in. We won’t grow in the Lord if we constantly try to go around the hard places we find ourselves in life on planet earth. Hard places in life for us will require some soul searching and some heart wrenching moments that will require wisdom, discernment, and prayer to help us through those dark, shadowy, and questionable circumstances.

Whether it’s a story or poem you have read, a simple statement by a wise counselor/friend, or a heart-wrenching experience you have witnessed, you will find the connection you need to see your way through the valleys of life.

Proverbs 3:5-6, “Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths.”

I think the best example of this alternative is found in our reflections of the past. God reminds us over again and again of simple experiences in our past that helped us when we were in the jaws of the evil one as he was causing us to doubt God and question our relationship with a Savior who loves us so much. Satan is a loser...but, he does not give up. In fact, he sometimes is stronger than our resolve to make it to the next level of our commitment to please God. Satan sees our weaknesses in action. He is not all-knowing and he is never a cheerleader for our team. We must constantly remind ourselves that he is a loser and we don’t have to defend him in any way. God has given us defensive and offensive weapons to challenge Satan’s darts that are flying our way.

Remember... “Satan is defeated and we win in the end.”

Alternative#3: Just say “YES” to God when HE asks for your help!

Our helping God can be best demonstrated by living the life of love and devotion to Him as we live our lives encouraging others around us. He has planned for us to be a testimony of God’s love for His creation. In so doing, we should be a witness to the Scriptures presenting Jesus as God’s Son who died for the sinner (you and me). Our belief in the resurrection of Jesus Christ and our testimony of being born-again is the most beneficial way we can help God. This plan of God is carried out by his disciples going and telling to the world around us of God’s love, of God’s willingness to accept the

changed life of the sinner into God's Kingdom, and God's provisions being used by the disciples of Christ to effectively change the world around us. In summary, we are called as believers to do our part in growing the Kingdom of God and to live out our faith in ways that reflect His love and grace. God is a merciful and loving God. All actions of God is centered in on bringing people to the realization that God, the Father, loved them so much that He gave His only Begotten Son...and whosoever believes in Him (Jesus) would not perish but have everlasting life. Encouraging and training others to effectively portray that truth to others is God's main goal. Therefore, it should be ours, too. When I reach my goal of walking into the Kingdom of God (Heaven), I want my Lord to say, "Well done, my good and faithful servant." What was "well done"? Effectively telling others about the love of Jesus and showing them from the Word of God as to how to get into the Kingdom of God.

We are to say, "No" to ungodly temptations coming our way!

We are to say, "Yes" to being an effective witness to the love and grace of God within our family, our neighborhood, and the extended world beyond our borders...all for the glory of God.