WHEN GOD SAYS NO
2 CORINTHIANS 12:7-9 / 9-22-19 / A.M.

I.  GOD DOESN’T ANSWER EVERY PRAYER.

A. In our text for today we see that God didn’t answer all of the Apostle Paul’s prayers.
   1. There’s probably never been a Christian any stronger, more faithful, or consistent that Paul was, yet God told him no to an earnest prayer that he prayed.
   2. Paul had a thorn in his body that he asked God to remove—2 Cor. 12:7.
   3. Can you identify with Paul’s thorn?

B. Paul prayed for God to remove his thorn, whatever it was—2 Cor. 12:8.

C. Have you ever prayed like that and nothing happened?
   1. Others have prayed prayers when nothing happened—Psalms 10:1.
   2. Even Jesus prayed a prayer in which nothing happened—Matt.26:39.

D. What does Paul’s experience teach us about unanswered prayer?
   1. Unanswered prayer sometimes happens to the best of us.
   2. When it happens it’s usually beyond our ability to explain.
   3. Also, it tests our faith during some of the darkest moments of our lives.

II. WHAT SHOULD WE DO WHEN GOD SAYS NO?

A. Keep praying. That’s what Paul did.

B. Trust God when He doesn’t answer your prayer—Job 13:15.

C. God has a right to say no.

D. Sometimes God uses the dark experiences of our lives in ways that we don’t understand—2 Cor. 12:9.