



“The Power of YES”
June 1-2, 2019
Pastor Larry Vold, 3Crosses Church

INTRODUCTION

Yes has the power to change our life and the lives of others.

In 2 Corinthians 1, we read about the power of YES in three different realms. There’s the realm of religious skepticism, the realm of God’s promises, and the realm of God’s will. Each of these realms poses a specific question that begs for a yes or no answer. And if we answer these questions with a dramatic YES, then we are being transformed. Saying NO is important, too. But not to these questions. These questions require a YES for the right kind of transformation to take place.

READ 2 Corinthians 1:12-22

Paul is trying to guide this church into unity and purity because there was much division and sin corrupting their witness in the world. Paul said he was coming to visit them (because of his love and commitment to them)—but then Paul decided it was better not to come due to what he feared would be more painful to them (and him).

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. READ verses 12-17. Sometimes we are perceived by others as being deliberately deceptive and we realize that we will never be fully understood until the Lord Jesus returns. Can you think of an example?
2. Skeptics may accuse us of insincerity and fickleness. Here are a few examples. Discuss as a group how you might address one of these perceptions.
 - We say we love people, but the skeptic claims that if we really loved people, we wouldn’t disagree with their moral or ethical choices.
 - We say we forgive, but our need for healing and reconciliation demands time and the building of trust—the skeptic complains that we are not truly forgiving because we do not immediately reconcile.
3. We say we care for others’ needs, but when we refuse to give someone what he wants so not to enable bad behaviors, the skeptic claims we really don’t care. The question behind all this misunderstanding is this: Are we sincere in our profession of faith? READ 2 Corinthians 1:12 again.
 - Paul says, YES! He’s saying we are the real deal! He maintains that his own sincerity and truthfulness isn’t only based on his conduct and clarity of message—but even more—on God’s faithfulness.

4. READ James 2:26 and Hebrews 12:14.
 - Discuss these passages as a group.

5. YES has power in the realm of God's promises. READ 2 Corinthians 1:18-20a
 - Do we believe God keeps His word? Does God change His mind?
 - READ Numbers 23:19, Joshua 21:45 and Psalm 145:13
 - Discuss these passages as a group.

6. YES has power in the realm of God's will.
 - Look at the end of verse 20, "And so through him, the 'Amen' is spoken by us to the glory of God." Paul is pointing out the reason why, when God's people gather, there's a response to God's revelation through the spoken, "Amen." Did you know when you say, "Amen" you are saying, "Yes." Yes, Lord, let it be.

7. The question that God asks: Will we say "yes" to what He reveals to us?
 - READ Luke 6:46, James 1:22 and Matthew 25:40

CHALLENGE

Ask God to reveal inconsistencies in your life that may fuel skepticism. Meditate on a different promise of God every day. Listen for whatever God may be asking of you and respond to Him by saying, "yes."

COMMIT TO MEMORY

Do not merely listen to the Word and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says.

James 1:22

PRAY FOR EACH OTHER

Share prayer requests, and commit to praying for one another until you meet again.