

Sermon Title: When God Says “Yes!” Part VII 8.3.2025

Themes: God’s holy nature and our faith. Live-streaming and sermon notes are at trinitycg.org.

Focus Question: What’s your praise today?

Sermon Points:

1. Fervent prayers of faithful persistence. God Says “Yes!” to our prayers when we faithfully pray according to His will. Here are two principles for hearing God through prayer. As writers note, at the heart of everything you think and do as a Christian is this unshakable truth: The Holy Spirit’s primary goal is not to make you great but to make Jesus known. **John 16:12–15**. Although God sometimes makes us wait for an answer, as we patiently trust Him, He affirms our faith. Though challenging, waiting on God’s timing cultivates patience and spiritual maturity. **James 1:2–8**. One of the clearest expressions of your faith is persistent prayer—the kind that refuses to give up, even when the answer is delayed. Persistent prayer teaches us to depend on Him, to surrender control, and to remain hopeful even when the outcome is uncertain. The Canaanite woman in Matthew 15 persisted even when Jesus seemed silent. Her unwavering faith drew out one of the highest commendations Jesus gave: **“O woman, great is your faith!”** (v. 28). **Matthew 15:21–28**. God affirms faithful prayer offered persistently. He sees our faithful and persistent prayers, especially our prayers for others. When we don’t grow weary, we quite often get to see prayers answered with a resounding “Yes!” **Colossians 4:2–6**, **Ephesians 6:17–18**, and **1 Thessalonians 5:16–19**. Faith that persists honors God—and God honors that faith. When we pray, we affirm God’s sovereignty. How do we persist in faithful prayer? 1. Keep a prayer journal. 2. Pray at a consistent time each day. 3. Pray with another person.

2. Prayers aligned with God’s nature. God’s glory shines brightly by redeeming sinful humanity and establishing His eternal Kingdom. **Matthew 5:13–16**. When we pray according to God’s nature, we can trust that He will answer. Prayer is not a formula to get what we want—it is a way to draw closer to the heart of God. True prayer aligns with who God is. As we grow in our relationship with Him, our prayers begin to reflect His nature. When our desires are shaped by His holiness, love, justice, mercy, and truth, we can pray with confidence. What God does cannot be separated from who God is. When we pray for what God delights in—salvation for the lost, justice for the oppressed, strength to obey, and grace to forgive—we are echoing His own heart. **Micah 6:8** and **Matthew 6:10**. The more we saturate our heart with Scripture, the more our prayers reflect God’s voice. **Psalms 37:4**. When He becomes our delight, our prayer requests better reflect His nature. Here are five instructions to pray according to God’s nature: 1) Pray for the things for which the Bible commands prayer: our enemies; to send missionaries; that we do not enter into temptation; for ministers of the Word; for government authorities; for relief from affliction; and for the healing of others. 2) Follow the example of godly people in Scripture. 3) Pray with the right motivation. 4) Pray with a spirit of forgiveness. 5) Pray with thanksgiving. What assurance we have when we seek to walk in the Spirit and not in the flesh! Then we can rest in the knowledge that He is working all things together for our good. **Romans 8:28**. We’ve learned that a lot happens when God says, “Yes!” May you hear that resounding “Yes!” today.

Reflection: Lord, help me to faithfully proclaim Jesus in my words and deeds.