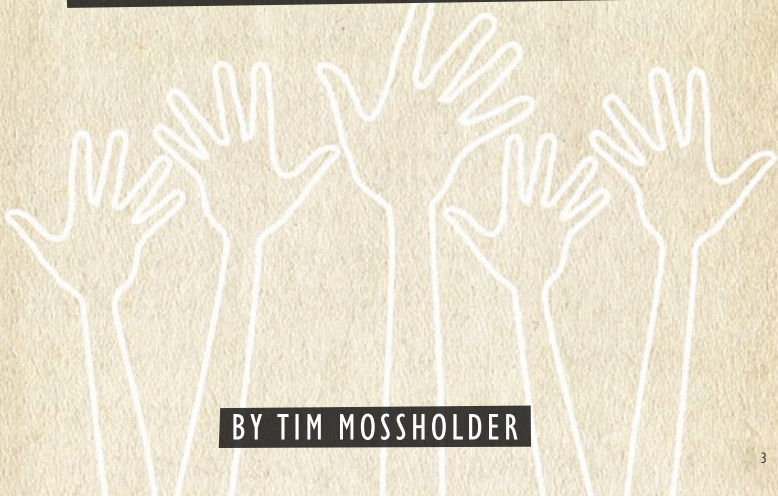


YES!





YES!



BY TIM MOSSHOLDER

YES . . . THE MOST IMPORTANT WORD YOU CAN EVER SAY TO GOD.

Saying YES to God is the most important thing you can do in your entire life! Nothing else comes close. Why? Because God waits for your permission to unfold His incredible plan for your life – a plan that includes healing from pain, freedom from sin and guilt, and the reality of everlasting life. God will never “force” His plan upon you. Instead, He patiently and lovingly waits for you to say YES to Him. Isn’t that amazing? The Creator of the universe waits for you and me to say YES to Him.

Some people never say YES to God. They live their lives saying NO to him, choosing to live by their own rules and their own plans. The problem is, when you live by your own rules, you die by your own rules. God’s Word, the Bible, is clear about this: every plan but His leads to death. Only His plan leads to life.

Romans 6:23 says: “For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord.”

What is “sin”? It’s saying NO to God. Sin says, “I know better than God! I’ll live by my own rules and make the choices that I want to make.” Some people sin out of rebellious pride – they know what God says, and they choose to do their own thing anyway. Others sin out of ignorance – they’ve grown up doing their own thing and have never thought much about God’s plan, which leads to life.

No matter why someone says NO to God, the result is clear: DEATH. And death isn’t just what occurs when you stop breathing! Ultimately, death is the complete

separation from God – both now and for eternity. The great news is that NO ONE has to die outside of God's plan! All you have to do is say YES to Him, and His promise is that you will have a new LIFE with Him!

Here is God's promise, spoken by Jesus: "For God loved the world so much that He gave His one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him will not perish but have eternal life" (John 3:16).

SAYING YES TO GOD MEANS:

- 1** You believe that He is real.
- 2** You believe what He said is true – His plan is the only way to have real life (both here on earth AND forever!).
- 3** You actually SAY it: "YES God, I believe in You and that Your Son, Jesus, died so that I can have new life." If you haven't yet done this, take the opportunity right now to say YES to God. At the back of this booklet you will find a simple prayer that will help you say YES to Him.
- 4** You are willing to live your new life continuing to say YES to God, making daily choices that will please Him.

It's that simple! If you have done these things, then your YES has been heard by God and His plan for you has already been secured! As you read through the following pages, you'll find out more about this choice you've made to say YES to God.

WHO DID YOU SAY YES TO?

YOU SAID YES TO THE ONE TRUE GOD.

When you said YES to God, you weren't just joining a "church" or having a "religious" experience. You were entering into a relationship with the only One who can truly save you. Yes, there are other "gods" and other religions. But only Jesus died for you, only Jesus rose again from the dead, and only Jesus has the power to save you. No other religious leader can claim that!

Jesus wants to make sure that we really understand that He is the ONE TRUE God – that He isn't just a "good idea" or "one way out of many" to get to heaven. Jesus said to His followers: **"I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one can come to the Father except through Me"** (John 14:6).

Peter, one of Jesus' closest followers, understood this. After Jesus returned to heaven, Peter said to the religious leaders of his day, **"There is salvation in no one else! There is no other name in all of heaven for people to call on to save them"** (Acts 4:12). There aren't many different paths to heaven and there aren't many ways to be freed from your sin. Jesus is the ONE TRUE way, sent by God to secure your freedom and eternal life!

I AM THE WAY,
THE TRUTH,
AND THE LIFE.
NO ONE CAN
COME TO THE
FATHER EXCEPT
THROUGH
ME.

JOHN 14:6

YOU SAID YES TO THE GOD WHO LOVES YOU.

Some people view God as a cruel ruler. They imagine that He can't wait to punish all wrongdoers, that He's just looking for opportunities to zap people with lightning bolts. Nothing could be further from the truth! The fact is that God is desperately in love with every person in all of the world. He is truly the greatest lover of all time – in fact the Bible tells us in 1 John 4:16 that **“God IS love!”**

God's love is so great that it extends even to those of us who have hated or ignored Him. In fact, Romans 5:8 says, **“But God showed His great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners.”** God loves sinners – that means that He loved us even before we said YES to Him!

Because God loves us, He has given us the most incredible gift imaginable – His own Son. 1 John 4:9-10 says, **“God showed how much He loved us by sending His one and only Son into the world so that we might have eternal life through Him. This is real love – not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son as a sacrifice to take away our sins.”**

God's love is something that we don't have to earn – in fact, we couldn't if we tried. Since we could never be “good enough” to deserve His love, He gives it to us freely. All we have to do is receive it by saying YES to Him. God gives His love with “no strings” attached – it is unconditional. Romans 8:38-39 tells us, **“And I am convinced that nothing can ever separate us from God's love. Neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither our fears for today nor our worries about tomorrow – not even the powers of hell can separate us from God's love. No power in the sky above or in the earth below – indeed, nothing in all creation will ever be able to separate us from the love of God that is revealed in Christ Jesus our Lord.”**

YOU SAID YES TO THE GOD WHO MAKES PROMISES.

Not only is He the one true God who loves me, but He is also the God who makes PROMISES – the Bible is FULL of them! Check out these promises and realize that they are for every person (including YOU!) who says YES to God.

God Promises Eternal Life

1 JOHN 5:11-12 And this is what God has testified: He has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have God's Son does not have life.

JOHN 11:25-26a Jesus told her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Anyone who believes in Me will live, even after dying. Everyone who lives in Me and believes in Me will never ever die."

God Promises Forgiveness from Sin

1 JOHN 1:9 But if we confess our sins to Him, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all wickedness.

PSALM 103:12 He has removed our sins as far from us as the east is from the west.

Jesus Promises to Return Again and Take Us to Heaven

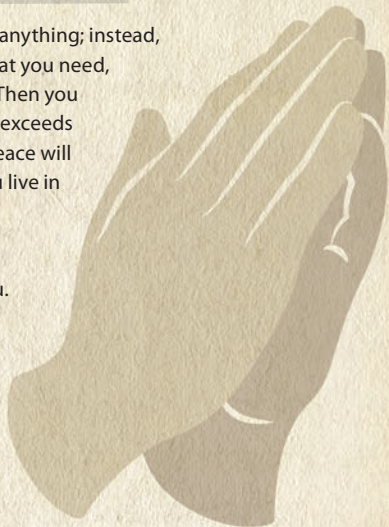
JOHN 14:3 When everything is ready, I will come and get you, so that you will always be with Me where I am.

1 THESSALONIANS 4:14, 16-17 For since we believe that Jesus died and was raised to life again, we also believe that when Jesus returns, God will bring back with Him the believers who have died. For the Lord Himself will come down from heaven with a commanding shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trumpet call of God. First, the Christians who have died will rise from their graves. Then, together with them, we who are still alive and remain on the earth will be caught up in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. Then we will be with the Lord forever.

God Promises to Hear Us when We Pray

PHILIPPIANS 4:6-7 Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank Him for all He has done. Then you will experience God's peace, which exceeds anything we can understand. His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus.

1 PETER 5:7 Give all your worries and cares to God, for he cares about you.



YOU SAID YES TO THE GOD WHO IS ALWAYS FAITHFUL.

Have you ever been around someone who was always making promises...but didn't keep them? Pretty soon you would lose respect for that person and quit believing what they said.

One of the most awesome qualities of God is His complete and total FAITHFULNESS. He not only makes promises, but He KEEPS THEM!

Hebrews 10:23 says, **“Let us hold tightly without wavering to the hope we affirm, for God can be trusted to keep His promise.”** And King David wrote, **“The LORD is trustworthy in all he promises and faithful in all he does”** (Psalm 145:13b, NIV).

The issue of God's faithfulness is so important, because if God is NOT perfectly faithful, then it would be foolish for us to put our trust in Him. But since He IS faithful, we can put our full confidence and trust in Him and everything He says. When we say YES to God we aren't placing ourselves on shaky ground – we are standing upon the firm foundation of God's unshakable faithfulness.

And God's faithfulness was not just seen in the days of the Bible – it continues forever! Hebrews 13:8 declares that, **“Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever.”**

Isn't that great to know? The same faithful Jesus who was there for his friends; the same faithful Jesus who went out of His way to heal the sick and spend time with outcasts; the same faithful Jesus who forgave sinners and rebuked the proud – the same Jesus is here for us today, and He'll be there for us tomorrow!

JESUS IS THE
SAME,
YESTERDAY,
TODAY, AND
FOREVER.
HEBREWS 13:8



WHAT DID YOU SAY YES TO?

YOU SAID YES TO SALVATION.

When we say YES to God and His plan, He actually “saves” us! The Bible is very clear – before we accepted God’s offer of salvation, we were spiritually dead, headed for an eternity completely cut off from God. When we say YES to Him, however, He rescues (or “saves”) us and moves us from death to life in Him.

God’s word tells us, **“Once you were dead because of your disobedience and your many sins. But God is so rich in mercy, and He loved us so much, that even though we were dead because of our sins, He gave us life when He raised Christ from the dead”** (Ephesians 2:1, 4-5). And Jesus Himself declared, **“I tell you the truth, those who listen to my message and believe in God who sent me have eternal life. They will never be condemned for their sins, but they have already passed from death into life”** (John 5:24).

Jesus called this radical change, from death to life, being “born again.” This phrase, being “born again,” helps us to understand that it’s not enough to be physically alive. Just because our hearts are beating does not mean that we have spiritual life! There must be a moment, a time of new birth, when we say YES to God and receive spiritual life through Him.

YOU SAID YES TO HOPE.

Hopelessness is all around us in our world – and for good reason. Without God, this world (along with all its trouble, pain, worries and death) is all you get! Even if you can manage to live a fairly decent, pain-free life, it IS going to come to an end someday. Where is the hope in that? It is only when God enters our lives that we can truly move from hopelessness to hope.

We have hope because of who God is and what He has promised us. These things remain constant and true, even when we are in the middle of tough times. Listen to the words of Jeremiah, a faithful servant of God who was going through a very painful time.

“The thought of my suffering and homelessness

is bitter beyond words. I will never forget this awful time, as I grieve over my loss. Yet I still dare to hope when I remember this: The faithful love of the Lord never ends! His mercies never cease. Great is His faithfulness; His mercies begin afresh each morning” (Lamentations 3:19-23).

Jeremiah knew that his hope wasn't based upon his circumstances – his Hope was in the living God. No matter what you are facing right now, no matter how bad it is, you don't have to be trapped in hopelessness. When you said YES to God, you entered into a relationship with the One who is bigger than your problems! He is your hope! With God you can make it! Romans 15:13 encourages us with this: **“May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in Him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit”** (NIV).

IT IS ONLY WHEN GOD
ENTERS OUR LIVES THAT
WE CAN TRULY MOVE
FROM HOPELESSNESS TO

HOPE.

YOU SAID YES TO FORGIVENESS.

When Jesus died on the cross, history was split in two! This event was the single-most defining moment of all time. Jesus willingly laid down His own life in order to pay the price for the sin of the world – including yours and mine. Why did He do this? So that we could experience forgiveness for all of our sin and enter into a relationship with God. When we say YES to God, we are forgiven, no longer having to carry the weight of guilt and shame for our wrongdoings. No matter how bad we have been, God's forgiveness is total and complete.

In Isaiah 1:18, God promises, **“No matter how deep the stain of your sins, I can remove it. I can make you as clean as freshly fallen snow. Even if you are stained as red as crimson, I can make you as white as wool.”**

But couldn't there have been another way? Did Jesus really have to die for our sins to be forgiven? Jesus really DID have to die – it was the only way. There had to be a radical payment made for the wrongs that have been committed throughout history by mankind – and the only payment radical enough was God's own perfect and sinless Son, Jesus.

The Bible says, **“For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God's glorious standard. Yet God, with undeserved kindness, declares that we are righteous. He did this through Christ Jesus when He freed us from the penalty for our sins. For God presented Jesus as the sacrifice for sin”** (Romans 3:23-25a).

YOU SAID YES TO FREEDOM.

One of the worst things about sin is that, without Christ, we are TRAPPED in it. Sin is a sickeningly addictive force that we are unable to walk away from in our own power. Before we said YES to God, sin was our master and we were its slave. But now that we have said YES to God, we have FREEDOM from the control of sin – its authority over us has forever been broken.

God Himself paid the price so that we could be free from the grip of sin. **“He is so rich in kindness and grace that He purchased our freedom with the blood of His Son and forgave our sins”** (Ephesians 1:7).

This freedom we now have doesn't mean that we'll never sin again. It means that we don't HAVE TO sin – God has given us the power to say NO to sin and to make right choices instead. Romans 6:16-18 tells us, **“Don't you realize that you become the slave of whatever you choose to obey? You can be a slave to sin, which leads to death, or you can choose to obey God, which leads to righteous living. Thank God! Once you were slaves of sin, but now you wholeheartedly obey this teaching we have given you. Now you are free from your slavery to sin, and you have become slaves to righteous living.”**

No matter how trapped you have been by sin, God can set you free. Drugs, lust, pride, hatred, habits and addictions are no match for the incredible power of our Lord, Jesus Christ! Just as you have chosen to say YES to God's salvation, choose now to walk in His power and live FREE from a lifestyle of sin.





HOW DO YOU KEEP SAYING YES TO GOD?

It's one thing to say YES to God and begin a relationship with Him, but it's another thing to KEEP saying YES to God for a lifetime. Accepting His promise of salvation is pretty easy – after all, Jesus did all the hard work – all we have to do is receive and act upon His promise. It's more difficult, however, to live in such a way that our relationship with God will continue to grow. We actually have to work at it!

Paul understood this principle. He was one of the early followers of Jesus and was an amazing leader. Paul traveled from city to city proclaiming the good news of Jesus and wrote many of the books in the Bible. But even this great Christian leader understood that he had to press forward and keep saying YES to God. Philippians 3:13-14 records these words of Paul, **“No, dear brothers and sisters, I have not achieved it, but I focus on this one thing: Forgetting the past and looking forward to what lies ahead, I press on to reach the end of the race and receive the heavenly prize for which God, through Christ Jesus, is calling us.”**

Like Paul, we need to realize that we **“have not achieved it.”** We need to focus our energies on obediently following Jesus, saying YES to Him every day. On the following pages, you will find five action points that will help you keep focused on growing in your relationship with Jesus. These are not things that you “have to do” to be saved. These are things that you “get to do” because you ARE saved!

Get **PLUGGED IN** to a local church.

God's Word tells us to, **"pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace, along with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart"** (2 Timothy 2:22b NIV). Nothing will help you continue to grow as a Christian like being involved in real relationship with other people who have said YES to God.

Get **BAPTIZED** in water.

If you have not yet been baptized in water, then do it soon! It is not only a public declaration that you have said YES to God, it's also an important step of obedience as you live your life continuing to say YES to Him. Acts 2:38 (NIV) says, **"Repent and be baptized, everyone of you..."**

Get into **PRAYER**.

Prayer is a form of active communication, talking and listening, interacting with the living God who desires to be in relationship with us. We are instructed in Philippians 4:6, **"Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank Him for all He has done."**

Get into **GOD'S WORD**.

The Bible is amazing! It contains everything that we need to come to an understanding of who God is, how He wants us to live and how we can have a relationship with Him through His Son, Jesus. 2 Timothy 3:16-17 tells us, **"All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right. God uses it to prepare and equip his people to do every good work."**



Get away from SIN.

When you said YES to God, and confessed your sin to Him, He forgave you and completely took away your sin and guilt. We don't need to keep repenting for old sin – it's already gone! But, in order to keep saying YES to God, we need to learn to live FREE from sin. 2 Timothy 2:19b tells us, **“All who belong to the Lord must turn away from evil.”** This can be a difficult process, but you CAN do it! Like Paul, “strain to reach the end of the race and receive the prize!”

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HOW TO SAY YES!

If you haven't already asked Jesus to be your Savior, do it right now. Just pray this prayer out loud.

“Jesus, I believe that YOU died for me. I believe that God raised YOU from the dead. I turn from my sin and receive YOU as my bridge to God. I confess that YOU, Jesus, are the Lord of my life. From now on I will follow YOU. Thank YOU for forgiving me and bringing me into YOUR family. Amen.”

Romans 10:9-10 says, “If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is by believing in your heart that you are made right with God, and it is by confessing with your mouth that you are saved.”

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