

FaithPrayers

It is our privilege to pray for you

THE POWER OF NO

.....

Odd, perhaps, to choose to write about the word “no” so close to Thanksgiving – a time when we focus on abundance and thankfulness. And yet, I have recently been struck with the fact that of the things we might be grateful for, this one word and the power it carries might be something we have overlooked.

I was shopping in two stores the other day and, in both, I had the opportunity to watch young children exult in their newfound ability to say NO. The first, with her bouncy brown curls, was being tailed by her very amiable father. With a sheepish but mildly amused look on his face, he trailed the three year old while she looked from person to person and thing to thing shaking her head back and forth and saying the accompanying word, “no” quite happily. It was a delightful day for her. She would look at someone, smile, and say “no!” Then she would look to the fruit and shake her head, saying “no!” with the same merry expression. She felt

highly empowered. She was finally in charge. She was saying no. None of us, the amused onlookers, had a clue to exactly what she was referring, but it made us all smile nevertheless. There is something about an empowered little human being that has that effect.

The next little boy was also with his father and also in a grocery store where he would go up to tomatoes

and loudly say “no” and shake his head vehemently. Then to potatoes and render his same verdict, “no”. His father was not particularly adhering to these strongly pronounced grocery directions, but it didn’t seem to matter much to the little guy. He, too, was filled with newfound empowerment. The remarkable empowerment that comes to a person when they truly



“My House will be called a House of Prayer for all nations...”

Isaiah 56:7

Matthew 21:13

THE POWER OF NO (continued)

believe that they have the ability to affect their environment, to make decisions, to produce change.

God Himself says no. No to lying, no to murder, no to adultery, no to covetousness. His “no’s” are called the Ten Commandments, and have served as a powerful beacon to much of the human race for many years now. God also just as clearly says yes, and means it. Yes to blessings, to love, to grace and to mercy... “For all the promises of God find their Yes in him...” (2 Corinthians 1:20).

As this year ends, let’s be grateful for all the things we can say no to, as well as the things we could but haven’t yet, said no to. And let’s say it with power. No to poverty. No to abuse. No to gossip. No to greed. No to injustice. No to corruption. This year, at Thanksgiving, let’s be grateful for our astounding ability to decisively say no, and the deep empowerment that comes with it.



Because sometimes saying no is, in effect, saying yes to something else. No to slavery is the first step to saying yes to equality. No to rudeness can be yes to graciousness.

And, finally, saying no to ingratitude is the first step to a heart of thanksgiving.

At FaithPrayers, we wish you and yours a wonderful and blessed Thanksgiving Day.

~ Mary Ann Offenstein,
Founder and Director of Operations
FaithPrayers

SCRIPTURE OF THE MONTH



**“We always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, when we pray for you...”
Colossians 1:3**

■ Have a prayer request? Want more information? We can always be contacted on our 24 hour a day, 7 day a week toll-free prayer line.

1-866-515-9406

Receive this newsletter via email! Sign up at

www.faithprayers.org

Have a smart phone?

Scan this code to sign up for our e-newsletter today!

