

Awaken to Your Best Yes! * Pastor Kelly Word

Ephesians 5:14-16

Therefore He says, Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall shine (make day dawn) upon you and give you light. [Isa. 26:19; 60:1, 2.]

15 Look carefully then how you walk! Live purposefully and worthily and accurately, not as the unwise and witless, but as wise (sensible, intelligent people),

16 Making the very most of the time [buying up each opportunity], because the days are evil.

// Let your Yes be Yes! //

Matthew 5:37 AMP

37 Let your Yes be simply Yes, and your No be simply No; anything more than that comes from the evil one. [Lev. 19:12; Num. 30:2; Deut. 23:21.]

Leviticus 19:12 AMP

12 And you shall not swear by My name falsely, neither shall you profane the name of your God. I am the Lord.

Numbers 30:2 AMP

If a man vows a vow to the Lord or swears an oath to bind himself by a pledge, he shall not break and profane his word; he shall do according to all that proceeds out of his mouth.

Deuteronomy 23:21-23 AMP

When you make a vow to the Lord your God, you shall not be slack in paying it, for the Lord your God will surely require it of you, and slackness would be sin in you.

22 But if you refrain from vowing, it will not be sin in you.

23 The vow which has passed your lips you shall be watchful to perform, a voluntary offering which you have made to the Lord your God, which you have promised with your mouth.

James 5:12 AMP

But above all [things], my brethren, do not swear, either by heaven or by earth or by any other oath; but let your yes be [a simple] yes, and your no be [a simple] no, so that you may not sin and fall under condemnation.

Ephesians 4:25 AMP

Therefore, rejecting all falsity and being done now with it, let everyone express the truth with his neighbor, for we are all parts of one body and members one of another. [Zech. 8:16.]

// How Do I Say No? //

The more we let things progress, the harder it is to say no!

Examples of Saying No with Kindness:

“I’m sorry, but I can’t give this the attention it deserves.”

“While my heart wants to say yes, the reality of my time makes this a no.”

We must set and respect boundaries!

Ecclesiastes 7:18 The Message

It’s best to stay in touch with both sides of an issue. A person who fears God deals responsibly with all of reality, not just a piece of it.

Ecclesiastes 7:18 NIV

It is good to grasp the one and not let go of the other. Whoever fears God will avoid all extremes.

- Schedule time to be available for service to others. Don’t just shut people out because of a crazy schedule. If Friday from 12-3 is what you have that you can be available to others, then make those your “opportunity days” to others who ask for your help. Let them know you can be of service to them during that time.

Don’t become a NO NINJA! There are things in life that God wants us to say yes to! We must be open and tuned in to the Holy Spirit to discern what is our BEST YES!

// The Best Yes //

Here are some great questions to ask when determining if the expectations we're agreeing to with our yes are really realistic or not:

- If feels thrilling to say yes to this now. But how will this yes feel two weeks, two months, and six months from now?
- Do any of the expectations that come from this yes feel forced or frantic?
- Could any part of this yes be tied to people pleasing and allowing that desire to skew my judgment of what's realistic and unrealistic?
- Which wise (older, grounded in God's Word, more experienced, and more mature) people in my life think this is a good idea?
- Are there any facts I try to avoid or hid when discussing this with my wise advisors?

What makes an expectation unrealistic? When an opportunity stretches me to a breaking point, it becomes unrealistic. Usually the areas we need to consider are:

- Our Time: The schedule required to meet all the demands of this opportunity isn't in line with the time we have to invest.
- Our Ability: We are not equipped with the necessary skills to carry out the functions of this opportunity.
- Our Money: We can't afford the financial responsibilities that come along with the opportunity.
- Our Passion: The responsibilities of this opportunity evoke a sense of dread instead of fulfillment in our hearts.
- Our Season: There is something that must take a higher priority during this season of our lives; therefore, the timing is off for us to take this opportunity.

Before you make a decision: HALT!

If you are hungry, angry, lonely, or tired, you can be quite vulnerable.

- When you are in these states. Meet the immediate need. Pause from decisions, and go to your safe place. When the world beats you down, open up your Bible.

We must have Godly wisdom to make Godly decisions! We need the Word of God and Wise Counsel.

James 3:13-17

Who is there among you who is wise and intelligent? Then let him by his noble living show forth his [good] works with the [unobtrusive] humility [which is the proper attribute] of true wisdom.

14 But if you have bitter jealousy (envy) and contention (rivalry, selfish ambition) in your hearts, do not pride yourselves on it and thus be in defiance of and false to the Truth.

15 This [superficial] wisdom is not such as comes down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual (animal), even devilish (demoniacal).

16 For wherever there is jealousy (envy) and contention (rivalry and selfish ambition), there will also be confusion (unrest, disharmony, rebellion) and all sorts of evil and vile practices.

17 But the wisdom from above is first of all pure (undefiled); then it is peace-loving, courteous (considerate, gentle). [It is willing to] yield to reason, full of compassion and good fruits; it is wholehearted and straightforward, impartial and unfeigned (free from doubts, wavering, and insincerity).

- We need people that have gone through some stuff and have come out on the other side carrying Godly wisdom. Those are the types of people, people with the fruit of the spirit, that we need speaking in to us.

// Don't Get Caught Up In Good And Neglect The Best //

Luke 10:38-42 AMP

Now while they were on their way, it occurred that Jesus entered a certain village, and a woman named Martha received and welcomed Him into her house.

39 And she had a sister named Mary, who seated herself at the Lord's feet and was listening to His teaching.

40 But Martha [overly occupied and too busy] was distracted with much serving; and she came up to Him and said, Lord, is it nothing to You that my sister has left me to serve alone? Tell her then to help me [to lend a hand and do her part along with me]!

41 But the Lord replied to her by saying, Martha, Martha, you are anxious and troubled about many things;

42 There is need of only one or but a few things. Mary has chosen the good portion [that which is to her advantage], which shall not be taken away from her.

Time spent searching for God and His truths... This desperate dependence on Him... This is our Very Best Yes!

Matthew 6:33 AMP

But seek (aim at and strive after) first of all His kingdom and His righteousness (His way of doing and being right), and then all these things taken together will be given you besides.