What kind of answers do we receive from God or which is our concept of how He is helping us and doing His work in us? What His care for those who believe consist of? Is it always receiving the answers we like? Sometimes He can tell us “no” for certain things. “Just don’t do it. It is not for you right now.” If it is sin, we just mustn’t do it, but it can be something legitimate too and He can still tell us “no” for that thing.

Simply because it won’t be good for us. Maybe one day we can have it or maybe never, and He knows the reasons.

“And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, “Of every tree of the garden you my freely eat; but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.” Genesis 2:16, 17

“You lust and do not have because you do not ask. You ask and do not receive, because you ask amiss, that you may spend it on your pleasures.” James 4:2, 3

 These are some of the verses that speak about God telling “no” for something to someone. And in these verses we also see the heart of the man. We would always like to receive “yes” as an answer. This is our nature. We can take as an example a small kid to which his father tells him “no” for something. And why is he telling him no? Because the father knows what is the best for his son. And knows as well what can hurt him. Many times when the child receives that answer, it start to cry. It mustn’t be always in this way for the Christians. We have to accept the answer of God for our good. He always knows what is the best for us and what can lead us closer to Him, which is the most important, because He is in the center of all. We always use to think that everything goes around us, that we are in the center, but no, it isn’t in this way.

 Many times we reduce the Christian faith as something that is based only on our “good decisions”, but it is not always in this way. Obviously we need to make decisions, but we are here because of the decisions that He took. Because He died for us, and if we can do something today or even to take a good decision, it is because of that. The Christianity is based on His decisions for our life. We need to hear His opinion for our life and listen to it. This will lead us to good. Remember? He has good plans for our life, plans to prosper us and not to harm us. (Jeremiah 29:11)

 But how are we going to enter into this promise if we don’t let Him decide for us, listening to Him, even if He tells us “no” for something. Are we going to say: “No God, don’t tell me “no” on this one. I can manage it by myself.” When I’m speaking about “no” for something, it can refer to anything, depending on the situation you are living. And it doesn’t necessary refers to sin, but even to something we can esteem as a normal thing, but God knows what can harm us or lead us to fall.

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Let us see a verse in John 6:60.

“Therefore many of His disciples, when they heard this, said, “this is a hard saying; who can understand it?” “

Here we see how His disciples reacted to what He said. To difference of the Jews at v.52, the disciples said that His speech was hard to hear. “The Jews therefore quarreled among themselves, saying, “How can this Man give us His flesh to eat?” John 6:52 Here in this verse we see the people after hearing this message of “eating the bread of life”, that was Jesus Himself. They didn’t understand clearly the message and to them was sounding out of place or crazy as we would say today. These were the Jews, that probably didn’t believe in Him. The second group from v.60 in chapter 6 of John was a bit different. It was the group of the disciples. Many times I thought that they also saw this saying as something weird, but what we see in verse 60 is a bit different. There they say “This is a hard saying”. So they found something hard in His speech. And that was in verse 53 “Then Jesus said to them, “Most assuredly, I say to you, **unless** you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink His blood, you have no life in you.” Here we see a condition given by Jesus to His disciples. He told them “**unless** you eat the flesh of the Son of man…”

 Obviously we are not speaking literally to eat his flesh here, but to have a communion with Him, with His word and His forgiveness that is the blood. But the point is that He wanted to tell them that there is no other way. Simply He was telling them that if they didn’t have a communion with Him, they were not going to have life in them. The life of God. That they had to do that. That was the only way. That’s why it was hard for them to listen His words.

 They had to persevere with that and maybe give up with other things or put them on the second plan and put Him first. So that He can be the first priority. Everything is fine while you are walking on the side of the miracle maker and He provides for your needs. But when He starts to get involved in our personal life, to place conditions in front of us and to ask you for things and guide your life in the very personal of your heart, it is not as pleasant anymore. And there is where He wants to be - in the first place, in the center. And that takes listening to Him, being obedient to Him, even when He tells us “no” for somethings. It means that we trust in Him, that we follow Him.

 It is a question of listening to Him. The Bible tells us to be swift to hear and slow to speak.

 “So then, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath;” James 1:19

 This verse beside telling us that we need to hear the others first and be patient with them, It means as well that we need first to hear from Him, because it speaks on the attitude in itself we have. We need to be swift and ready to hear from Him, instead of doing something in our own way without hearing from Him on how it needs to be done. To hear what He tells us , what He speaks.

 Many times instead we do the opposite, I mean that we are slow to hear and swift to speak. We just want to do something even if it is based on our good desires and we don’t want to listen first. This is the way sometimes in which we “speak”, in which we act first instead of hearing. He needs to instruct us and guide us.

“It is written in the prophets, ‘And they shall all be taught by God.’ Therefore everyone who has heard and learned from the Father comes to Me.” John 6:45

We need to hear from God as it says the verse above, so that we can go to Jesus. Everything comes down to hearing Him. The Christianity is based on this. On what He says. How can we follow Him, if we don’t hear His voice saying: “Follow me”?

 In this way, we need to accept what is He telling us. Even if this means “no” for somethings. It is because He best knows what do we need. Maybe the answer “no” is going to be for ever for something, maybe it is just for a time, but anyhow, it is for our good. If we don’t learn discipline from God, if we don’t learn to obey Him, how are we going to understand everything else in life? Amongst all the voices and different opinions we hear around us. How are we going to know which one is right?

 He is the potter and we are the clay in His hands. We have to follow Him. “But indeed, O man, who are you to reply against God? Will the thing formed say to him who formed it, “Why have you made me like this?” Romans 9:20

 This verse makes a reference for the clay and God being the potter and in the whole of this chapter 9 of Romans it speaks about God’s election. And maybe knowing how to be a clay in His hands, will help us to understand more about the election and the choices He makes. He knows what is the best for us even though sometimes it might cost us even to tears, but He still gives us comfort and helps us to accept it.