

Sacredly Written Sermon Notes

Capturing Heaven's Downloads, One Message at a Time

Rock City Church | Pastor Mike Jr | July 27, 2025
Message Title: "No"

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Scripture Focus

Matthew 4:8–10 (NLT)

“Next the devil took him to the peak of a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. ‘I will give it all to you,’ he said, ‘if you will kneel down and worship me.’ ‘Get out of here, Satan,’ Jesus told him. ‘For the Scriptures say, “You must worship the Lord your God and serve only him.”’

Sermon Summary

Pastor Mike Jr.’s sermon “**No**” challenges us to remember that discernment is necessary in a season of open doors, because every opportunity isn’t from God. The enemy can’t destroy what God has for you—but he will distract, negotiate, and pervert it, so you have to stay spiritually locked in, guard your mind from doubt, and trust God’s timing even when you’re under pressure.

Discernment at the Door: Which Opportunities to Say NO To

Big Truth: Doors & opportunities will be opening this year—but you must be able to discern which ones you’re going to tell NO.

- The devil offered Jesus a shortcut to glory **without the cross**. A promotion without the process. A win without the weight.

Glory Without Pain

- To walk in purpose, pain is required.
 - **David**
 - Purpose: Called to be king, fought Goliath.
 - Pain: Rejected by his father.
 - **Joseph**
 - Purpose: Had a dream, found favor, rose in rank.
 - Pain: Sold into slavery by his brothers.
 - **Jesus**
 - Purpose: Salvation of humanity.
 - Pain: Crucifixion followed by “Nevertheless, Thy will be done.”

"If pain was Jesus' death certificate, then purpose became our birth certificate." PMJ

You cannot shout about resurrection power and skip the sovereignty of the crucifixion.

- Everybody wants to live. But nobody wants to die.
- Jesus was physically weak after 40 days of fasting—but **spiritually locked in**.
- No matter what you're struggling with—money, health, emotions—**stay locked in spiritually**.

Understanding Perversion: Twisted Purpose

Definition:

- Perversion isn't just sexual—it's **when something good is twisted into something wrong**.
- **Distortion by design**.
- The enemy doesn't create—he perverts. He can't birth truth; he can only *bend it*.

Romans 1:25 (NLT)

“They traded the truth about God for a lie. So they worshiped and served the things God created instead of the Creator himself.”

Examples of Perversion:

- **Justice**: Designed for protection → Twisted into control and revenge.

- **Worship:** Meant to glorify God → Twisted into glorifying people, fame, self.
- **Identity:** You were made in His image → Twisted into a label-based existence.
- Anytime someone wants you to become something other than **what God made you to be**—they are perverting you.

Perversion is when the enemy takes God's plan and turns it into your prison.

Discernment, Temptation & Negotiation

- Saying “No” is Spiritual Warfare
- The devil makes bad things feel good and good things feel burdensome.
- Sometimes your greatest “YES” to God requires your **boldest “NO”**—to dysfunction, distractions, and even **opportunities**.
- The Devil is Not a Monster—He’s a Salesman
- The old church taught us to fear the devil like a boogeyman.
- He’s more strategic than scary.
 - Why attack you when he can just offer you a “blessing” to **distract** you?
 - When you're close to what's real, **the counterfeit always shows up**.
- **Discernment** is shouting over what God sent **and** discerning what's fake even when it looks like favor.
- Some blessings are forfeited not because we failed the test—but because we entertained the conversation.

Many lose the battle with temptation because we never fought the battle of negotiation.

Temptation vs. Negotiation

Key Point: It's not always temptation that gets you—it's the **negotiation**.

- You **entertained** it.
- Jesus in Matthew 4:8–10 didn't debate—He shut it down.
- If you play with it—it **will play you**.
- Some miss destiny not because they said “yes”—but because they didn't say “no” **fast enough**.

Every negotiation with the enemy is a **setup for subtraction**.

Genesis 3:1–3 (NLT) – The serpent didn't push Eve; he **conversed** with her.

“Did God really say...?” → The fall began with banter, not the bite.

Negotiation is the **birthplace of compromise**.

- You compromise in your mind **before** your hands.
- The enemy doesn't need your fall—just your attention.
- Negotiation → Conversation → Compromise → Collapse

Doubt & Disruption

What Is Doubt?

“Doubt is not the absence of faith—it's the **tension** between faith and fear.”

- **Definition:** A feeling of uncertainty or lack of conviction.
- Spiritually, it's a disruption in trust—especially when God has already spoken.
- Doubt isn't a fact—it's a feeling you must grow past.
- It's not about information—it's about **trust** and **character**.
- Doubt says: “I believe God can—but will He do it for me?”
- Doubt isn't distrusting God's Word—it's distrusting His **character**.

Letting your feelings lead will stop you from standing in your convictions.

How the Devil Uses Doubt

- The enemy doesn't want you to believe it's possible.
- He doesn't want people to gather or agree.
- He knows:
 - God is powerful.
 - Your faith works.
 - He can't stop God, but he can get you to stop yourself.

Doubt is a strategy to disrupt your trust.

- At the doorstep of breakthrough → You hesitate.

- At the doorstep of destiny → You wonder if you belong.

Faith & Doors

“Ask and it shall be given. Seek and you shall find. Knock and the door will be opened.”

- God didn’t ask you to open it—just **knock**.
- Knocking requires **noise**—expect to offend people who prefer your silence.
- If God said the door will open:
 1. It’s already cracked.
 2. He’s standing behind it with a key.
 3. He will walk through it with you.
- **When doors open for me, I leave them open for others.**
- The enemy wants you **isolated** so you don’t witness God doing it for others.

Your Testimony is Proof

- When you withhold your testimony, you withhold **evidence** that God is real.
- Your story might be someone else’s confirmation.
- Doubt tries to **erase your witness**.

Double-Mindedness: A Split Soul

- Greek Word: *Dipsychos*
- *Two-souled* — divided loyalty and devotion.
 - One soul is loyal to God.
 - One soul is loyal to comfort, control or culture.
- **James 1:6 (NIV)** - “But when you ask, you must believe and not doubt, because the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind.”
- **Double-mindedness isn’t two thoughts—it’s two directions.**
- You’re loyal to God until you’re uncomfortable.
 - You’re only loyal to your options.
 - It’s easy to be faithful when you do not have options.
- You’re faithful to the call until the culture demands conformity.

*Are you loyal to **God**, or to **comfort**, **control**, or **culture**?*

Signs of a Double-Minded Spirit:

1. Second-guessing—even what God already confirmed.
2. Praying big—but preparing small.
3. Spiritually filled up on Sunday, empty by Wednesday.
4. Obedient—until it stops making sense.
5. You want the blessing, but not the burden.

You're faith cannot be built on a person.

How Doubt Actually Works

- It's your brain trying to **protect you** from disappointment.
- You've been let down before—so you hesitate to hope again.
- But hesitation is the enemy of **healing and harvest**.

Peter Walked on Water... Then Doubted

- **Matthew 14:30 (NIV)** - “But when he saw the wind, he was afraid and, beginning to sink, cried out, ‘Lord, save me!’”
- The wind didn't start until Peter started walking.
- Doubt **attacks you mid-miracle**.

False Peace & False Doors

- Not all opportunities are from God.
- The enemy will tempt you with success.
- The devil will calm the storm long enough to make you think it's safe.
- Don't confuse a pause in pain with a green light from God.

Worship is Warfare

- Worship is how you say “NO” to idols.
- Scripture is how you say “NO” with authority.
- Both are weapons in spiritual warfare.

Reflection Questions

1. What has been sitting in your heart lately that God didn't place there?
2. Have you allowed your current pain to distort your perspective of God's plan?
3. What area of your life have you tried to "clean up" externally while your heart still needs healing?
4. Have you mistaken the process of hiding your hurt for healing?
5. What past experience or lie are you holding onto that God wants to clean out?
Be honest—what fear, memory, or offense needs to be uprooted?
6. What has God been showing you about yourself lately?
7. How often do you check your heart before responding to challenges or people?
8. Do you trust God enough to let Him do heart surgery on the things you've tried to protect?
9. When you feel the urge to go back to old patterns, what anchors you in truth?
10. How is God calling you to show up differently—in relationships, purpose, or leadership—after this word?

Personal Reflection

This one hit like an uppercut—but in a good, necessary kind of way. The kind that makes you sit back and say, ***“Okay God, I hear You loud and clear.”*** What Pastor Mike Jr. reminded me through this sermon is that you can't just pray for peace and then entertain confusion, or ask God for healing while holding hands with what broke you.

I've struggled with doubt more than I've ever wanted to admit—doubting the timing, doubting if I'm really called, doubting if I can handle the weight of the assignment on my life. But the truth is, God isn't intimidated by our doubt. He just asks us to bring it to Him. To let Him show us that He can work with it. That's where I'm resting right

now—letting Him build the kind of faith that doesn't require all the answers, just enough courage to say “yes” anyway.

There was such a deep conviction in Pastor Mike's words about not reverting back to what God delivered you from. Because real talk? There are moments where I feel myself slipping—mentally, emotionally, even spiritually. But then I pause and remember who I am. Who **He** says I am. That clarity helps me stop the backslide before it starts.

I'm walking away from this sermon with a deeper reverence for the process. It's not about perfection, it's about progress—and staying **anchored** in what God has already revealed, even when old temptations try to resurface in shiny new packaging.

If He built it to cover me... that means He's not done building through me.