



The Legacy of Yes | Shawn Johnson | 08.27.2023

Weekly Study

SHARE

This week Pastor Shawn Johnson gave a standalone sermon called *The Legacy of Yes*. Each and every one of us was made to walk in the fullness of our purpose and calling but that's easier said than done. For some of us we've been waiting, praying, and begging for something to be revealed to us but hearing God's voice can be difficult. For some of us, we think we've heard the calling placed on our lives but we're starting to question if maybe we were mistaken because things aren't going the way we thought they would. For some of us, we've heard what God has called us to, but we are hesitant to say yes because our pride, ego, fear, doubt, or circumstance is getting in the way of our obedience. And for some of us, we've been saying yes for a long time now and we're exhausted after years of obedience, and we've reached the point where we don't know how we're going to keep saying yes. Wherever you find yourself, Shawn reminds us that God rarely reveals his whole plan for us, but he does reveal his promises. His job is the results, our job is posturing our hearts and saying yes. Are you ready to see what kind of legacy awaits on the other side of your yes?

If you could relive 10 minutes from last week, what would you pick and why? Would you do anything different?

Share a story from any aspect of your life in which you said "yes" to something you didn't quite understand or possibly didn't want to say yes to, and it turned out better than you ever could have imagined, even if it was difficult.

GROW

Read Genesis 12:1-4 NIV ([click to see verse](#))

The overarching theme of Genesis 12:1-4 is that the Lord commands Abram to "go" and Abram said, "yes." This simple (but not easy) act of obedience paved the way for "all peoples on earth" to be blessed

through Abram, but taking this exchange between the Lord and Abram at face value makes saying “yes” seem much easier than it is. Fortunately, scripture always has more to offer. First, the Lord calls Abram “out of” something before he “sends him” somewhere else. Many of us are eager to be called into something new but what we don’t realize is that it’s impossible to arrive somewhere new without first leaving something behind. You cannot receive the new while clinging to the old. This is one of many reasons why saying yes can be so hard. Second, the Lord is often far more specific in what he asks us to let go of than he is about where he plans on leading us. It can be hard to say yes when there’s no guarantee that we will be blessed with a situation equivalent to or better than what we have now.

How does God speak to you? What does he do that makes you so confident he is speaking to you?

Is there something in your life God is asking you to leave behind, let go of, or walk away from before he sends you somewhere new? Explain.

M O V E

Read [The Bridge Builder Poem](#) (click to view)

God frequently uses individuals to change the future of entire generations by building a new foundation in which the next generation can stand on the legacy (or shoulders) of those who came after them. From Abram to Moses, to Joshua to Jesus, Peter to Paul and beyond. As Shawn mentioned, because Abram said yes and continued saying yes, thousands of years later we can hear the Good News of Jesus Christ at Red Rocks Church because amazing men like Scott Bruegman chose to say yes to what God called them to even when it was difficult, and that decision will impact generations to come for the Kingdom of God. And if the dozens of examples of individuals leaving a legacy by saying yes still fail to bring clarity to the importance of saying yes, hopefully the contemporary story of *The Bridge Builder* does. In life we will face trials and obstacles of all kinds and how we respond to them will determine the legacy we leave. The next time you reach a chasm in your life, will you let it stop you and keep you where you are? Will you say yes to the journey despite not knowing what awaits on the other side? Or will you lay a foundation and leave a legacy through your faithfulness that allows those who come after you to stand on your shoulders and go further than you ever could because you chose to keep saying yes?

What has the Lord stirred up in your heart recently? A dream? A purpose? A calling?

Where are you at in the process of saying yes to what God might be calling you to? (Ex: waiting to be called, resisting saying yes, saying yes right now, trying to figure out how to keep saying yes?)

What is the biggest thing holding you back from saying yes to God? Is there something specific you're waiting for before you say yes?

What is the legacy you want to leave behind (bridge you want to build) that holds up future generations and expands the Kingdom of God before your time on earth comes to an end?

P R A Y

God, we thank you for the hundreds, if not, thousands of people who came before us that said yes to what you asked of them. We thank you for giving your one and only Son that said yes to becoming sin and receiving the punishment we all deserve so that we may be free in him. This week, will you be with us as we process how you might be calling us to partner with you in leaving a legacy and expanding the Kingdom of God for future generations to receive the same Good News that we have received from those who came before us. Will you help us with whatever it is that might be holding us back from saying yes to you and help us focus on the promises you have for us, even if we can't see them right now. God, do in our lives what only you can do.