



## Leaders Refresh Their “Yes”:

Enduring Through Times of Difficulty

**Behavior:** “Leaders Lead Themselves First”; “Leaders are All-In”

**Value:** Endurance

**Stated:** Life is hard, but God is good. Therefore in moments of hardship, I willingly choose to once again make a fresh commitment to follow, seek and trust the Lord with all my heart.

***What is the one thing that is most critical to surviving and thriving in being a Christ follower for the long haul?***

Your ability to consistently refresh your yes!

Romans 5:3-5, “...we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces **endurance**, 4 and endurance produces **character**, and character produces **hope**, 5 and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.”

### Endurance

We’ve all had moments in life where we’ve had to make the decision to hold on when it was easier to let go.

Difficult moments always reintroduce us to ourselves. It is what you choose to do in those moments that will reveal what you truly believe. Your behavior will bear out what you believe:

- How you react/respond
- Your inner thoughts and emotions
- What comes out of your mouth...because it was already your heart
- Commitment level - are you truly “all-in”?
- Decisions made with selfish motives or selfless motives

*“Blessed is the man who remains steadfast under trial, for when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life, which God has promised to those who love him.” James 1:12, ESV*

***I refresh my yes by choosing to remain steadfast in purpose, in loyalty, and in faith.***

## **Character**

*“A person of character makes decisions based on values, not feelings.”  
- Jeanne Mayo*

Character is who you are when no one else is looking.

Developed by:

- Daily disciplines
- Spending time with the Lord
- Placing value on what is important (family, health, recharging, etc)
- Maintaining a balanced life
- Compassion towards others
- Acts of selflessness

*“the Lord does not see as man sees; for man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart.” 1 Samuel 16:7, NKJV*

***I refresh my yes by consistently making right choices to produce the right emotions and right actions.***

## **Hope**

You either give purpose to pain or the pain will define its own purpose.

Blessings of walking through hardship:

- You are not alone
- Lessons learned
- Wisdom gained
- New growth
- Fruit in the valley
- Hope for the future and for others
- Shifts perspective

Hope doesn't disappoint. Christ is always at work for our good and His glory!

*“You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives.” Genesis 50:20, NIV*

***I refresh my yes by trusting the One who holds my life in His hands.***

## **Refresh Your Yes**

“Yes” to His perfect will.

“Yes” to the adventure.

“Yes” to the assignment.

“Yes” to the tears.

“Yes” to the laughter.

“Yes” to contending for revival within our nation.

“Yes” to seeing a diverse apostolic community.

“Yes” to the victories that will outweigh the struggles and frustration.

“Yes” to the stretching.

“Yes” to the growth that will take place because of the stretching.

“Yes” not for our sake, but for the sake of those we are called to serve.

***I refresh my yes by offering up everything I have and holding nothing back.***

## **Questions:**

1. Where in your life do you need to refresh your yes?
2. If you do not assign meaning to the difficulties in your life, the difficulties will assign their own meaning. How intentional are you being at doing that?
3. How we “choose” to come through tough times both forms and reveals our character. Have you ever gone through something that was really difficult? What changed in your life as a result of decisions you made during that time?
4. It’s not what you give up, it’s what you offer up. What are you offering up to the Lord?

**Pray:** Jesus, today I refresh my yes to you. In times of suffering and trials, may the work that you are doing in me also work through me as I serve those around me. Give me understanding and compassion both for myself and for others. Let me keep my eyes fixed on You, the author and perfecter of my faith. You have never failed and you never will. I choose to trust You in ALL things. May I lead myself well for the sake of those you have called me to serve.