

Murmuring and Complaining: Twin Hindrances to the Blessings of God

Numbers 11:1

I. The problems with complaining:

1. The Bible makes no secret as to how one can please or displease God. Faith pleases God (Heb. 11:6), nevertheless, Numbers 11:1 teaches us that murmuring and complaining displeases God.
2. Complaining shows a negative attitude (Deut. 1:27), complaining shows a lack of faith (Psalm 106:24-25) and it is a symptom of Complaining stems from immaturity
3. Complaining opens the door for Satan to destroy your life (1 Cor. 10:9-13)
 - a. Complaining releases negative forces into the atmosphere of your life and gives permission for these demon forces to bring to pass those things that you are complaining about or to worsen the situation that you are already in.
4. Complaints are an expression of what you truly believe about God and your situation. Some say that they believe God's Word, yet they are constantly complaining about the circumstances in their lives (Jude verses 16-24; Phil. 2:14; **Numbers chapters 13 and 14**).

II. Negative Confessions - Eph. 4:29-31

1. The words of our mouths must be in line with God's Word. Complaining shows what is in the heart and what is in the heart will come out of the mouth (Matt. 12:35-37; 15:11, 18-19).
2. Joshua learned not to allow God's Word to depart out of His mouth. He had seen first hand the results that come from murmuring and complaining.
 - a. *Let this book of the law be ever on your lips and in your thoughts day and night, so that you may keep with care everything in it; then a blessing will be on all your way, and you will do well. (Joshua 1:8; Bible in Basic English)*
3. The Bible teaches us to rejoice in our sufferings (Col. 1:24; 1 Pet. 4:13).
 - a. Complaining has never helped anyone. Praise and worship and a positive confession in line with God's Word will always get us over.
 - b. Mark 11:23 - If there are mountains (or problems) in our way we should not complain about them, speak authority over them. Complaining will not move mountains, faith will.

c. Isaiah 1:19 - We have to be willing and obedient if we desire to eat the good of the land of God's blessings. Some are obedient but they complain. Complaining shows a lack of willingness.

III. Some things people complain about:

1. Wives complain about their husbands
2. Husbands complain about their wives
3. Complaints about jobs and supervisors
4. Complaints about church programs, leaders, and fellow Christians
 - a. Your spouse, job situation, or church will never change by your complaints. Prayer changes things, not complaining. Nevertheless, too many would rather complain than to pray.
 - b. If we think that life is so tough, we should read about Christians in other countries.