

COMPLAIN, COMPLAIN, COMPLAIN

Lamentations 3:39

Introduction: Why should a living person complain? When life is still left, how can a person complain? I seems that the nature of man has always been one of complaint. Adam and Eve complained. Cain complained. Abraham complained. Isaac complained. Esau complained. Jacob complained. Joseph's 11 brothers complained. The Israelites complained. Moses complained. The bible is full of complaining from the very first page to the last. It seems that man is never content with what God gives.

I. LOOK AT SOME OF OUR OWN COMPLAINTS

1. Look at our situation in life.
 - We don't like the home we live in.
 - We don't have a new car like somebody we know has.
 - We're not getting paid what we think we are worth.
2. When God blesses us, we still complain.
 - We are disappointed in our business. When God sees fit to give us a business, we complain that it isn't big enough, etc.
 - We lose some of our "friends" when we get a gift from God, say a new home, or a new car so some friends say we are too good to associate with them anymore.
3. All our prayers are not answered as soon as we want.
 - God just doesn't hear our prayers anymore, the same selfish prayer usually.
 - When we pray we think that God should stop whatever He's doing and come running to us immediately.
 - David was disappointed in his prayers about his newborn son.
 - Paul prayed for the "thorn" to be removed from his side.

II. WHAT IS WRONG WITH OUR COMPLAINING?

1. It is a sin against reason.
 - Doesn't it sound reasonable that God is capable of running His own business? Here we are complaining, and in a way telling God that he doesn't know how to do business with us. If we were God, how would we run things? If God saw fit to give us what we have, who are we to say He doesn't know what He is doing? Yet that is how we act.
2. It is a sin against the goodness of God.
 - It is downright ungrateful of us to complain to God. We have all seen someone be ungrateful to someone, and we say, "why that ungrateful so and so, if I were him/her I'd never speak to him/her again."
 - It seems as if we are prone to forget the pleasant gifts of God and remember only what we didn't get.

3. It is a sin against our supposedly faithfulness and truth.
 - We are told by the Bible, "*...my God shall supply all your needs.*" We so often lose our faith and began to complain. We say that we are faithful, but if we complain, how can that be true?
 - We are also told by the Bible, "*..no good thing will be withheld from them that walk uprightly..*" It seems from that scripture that if we do not get all we think that we should, then maybe, we don't deserve to get any more?
 - Whether we like it or not, it all boils down to the simple fact that when we complain, we are showing loss of faith in God and not trusting Him as we should.
4. It is a sin that will bring bad consequences upon us.
 - When we complain, we begin to lose our pleasant appearance.
 - When we complain, we become unlovable. Does that sound reasonable? Who likes to be around someone that is always griping, complaining, grouchy, unhappy , just an old grouch?
 - When we complain, we are causing God to began to frown on us and maybe God might be thinking that we don't deserve any blessings at all. Remember what happened to some of those who complained early in the Bible? Adam and Eve were cast out of the Garden of Eden. Cain committed murder and was cursed by God. Abraham was Rebuked by the Lord and had to name his son "laughter." Isaac suffered a split love between his sons as one was a "mamma's boy" and the other a "daddy's boy." Loving one more than the other. Esau was tricked out of his blessing and forced to be second best. Jacob had to work an extra seven years to get the woman he loved and though was getting on his wedding night. The 11 brothers were forced to bow to the brother they hated. Israel had more hardships placed upon them. Moses was rebuked by the Lord. God punished Israel with 40 years wandering in the wilderness.
 - Why should a living Christian complain? Alive, Americans, free to do as we please, no one harassing us. Why do we complain? We have a gracious Heavenly Father. We have a Heaven awaiting us.

III. HOW DO WE STOP COMPLAINING?

1. Take an inventory. How do others see us? How much of an old grouch are we to others?
 - Look down deep into our heart. Why are we jealous? Why do we complain? Why are we so unsatisfied? Find the trouble.
2. Look into the future.
 - We know that we are not perfect but we do have a particular talent. Why do we have that "talent?" How can we glorify God with it? If we use what we already have, then we won't have time to want for anything else. "How can we ask for more when we don't really know or use what we have?"
3. Then look up.
 - Look up to God. He is the one that we get our blessings from. From Him is where the next ones are coming from. Many times we get the idea that we are the cause of our own blessings. That it is our doings that got us what we have. How wrong that is.

- God must think us pretty ungrateful, and we are aren't we? We never take the time to thank God for the many, many undeserved things we have. Don't you think that God might be a bit disgusted with our ungratefulness?
- We complain against God's love.
 - We complain against God's mercy.
 - We complain against God's blessings.
 - We actually bite the hand that feeds us, if you remember that old saying.

CONCLUSION:

1. Remember the story told a long time ago about a man who complained all the time that he didn't have enough shoes as he had only one pair, not in style, and with winter coming on, they were not winter shoes. He did this all the time until he met a man who didn't have any feet or legs.
2. Let's stop our complaining and begin thanking God for what we have. Just think of what YOU have that others don't.
3. Above all, let's remember to thank God for His love, His Son, His gift of Salvation, and His Heaven that is awaiting us.
4. What has God given YOU that you can thank Him for?