

What's with all the Moaning and Groaning

When tempted to Complain - Remember

Intro: Someone with a sense of humor, or else too much time on their hands, wrote this little story entitled *The Grumble Family*

There is a family nobody likes to meet,
They live, it is said, on Complaining Street.
In the city of Never-Are Satisfied,
The River of Discontent beside.

They growl at that, and they growl at this;
Whatever comes there is something amiss;
And whether their station be high or humble,
They are known by the name of Grumble.

The weather is always too hot or too cold,
Summer and winter alike they scold;
Nothing goes right with the folks you meet
Down on that gloomy Complaining Street.

They growl at the rain, and they growl at the sun;
In fact, their growling is never done.
And if everything pleased them, there isn't a doubt
They'd growl that they'd nothing to grumble about!

And the worst thing is that if anyone stays
Among them too long he will learn their ways,
And before he dreams of the terrible jumble
He's adopted into the family of Grumble.

So it were wisest to keep our feet
From wandering into Grumbling Street.
And never to growl whatever we do,
Lest we be mistaken for Grumblers too.

But said in a nutshell (quitcherbellyachin)

Has any one here by any chance ever complained or grumbled about anything? Well I guess that may be the reason it came to my mind to address it so as to help us try and get victory over it.

Webster defines complain as to express grief, pain or discontent. Other words that relate to this word complain are words like Protest, gripe, fuss, snarl, whimper, or grumble, moan, or groan

If you haven't necessarily complained, have you ever done any of these other things?

Its like the story of the customer, who walked into a store and said, Do you sell dog biscuits in this rotten little shop?

The clerk calmly looked at him and said: Yes sir, would you like to eat them here, or shall I send them to your kennel!

Did you know that some of the first to complain in most churches are those who have the least to do. The gift of grumbling it seems, is largely dispensed among those who keep what talents they have wrapped up in a nice tidy handkerchief for safe keeping and not to use.

Actually, complaining is unbecoming of the true Christian and yet it seems that we are extremely proficient at it. Listen to some examples of it from the children of Israel:

In Exodus 15:22-24 they grumbled about **water**:

In Exodus 16:1 they grumbled about **food**

So complaining among Gods people is nothing new is it? Moses got a belly full of it with that bunch. But lets think about a cure for grumbling which is found in some verses from the pages of our bibles.

The reality is that in Christ, we are never hopeless or forsaken no matter how bad the circumstances. Every trial has meaning.

So to begin, remember

1. God commands us never to complain

Philippians 2:14 *Do all things without complaining and disputing.*

Question: Now did that say all things or most things??

2. God commands us to give thanks in every circumstance

I Thessalonians 5:18 *In everything give thanks, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.*

Question: It is a whole lot easier to complain than to give thanks isn't it? But what about giving thanks that things aren't worse because they could be couldn't they??

Thought: If you can't be grateful for what you receive, be grateful for what you escape.

Then when I feel like complaining I need to remember that

3. God commands me to rejoice always, and especially in times of trial.

Philippians 4:4 *Rejoice in the Lord always.* 1 Thess. 5:16 *Rejoice always* James 1:2 *Count it all joy when you fall into various trials.*

Thought: To realize the worth of the anchor, we need to feel the fury of the storm.

Then when we feel like complaining we need to remember that

4. I always deserve much worse than what I am suffering now - in fact, I really do deserve hell

Lamentations 3:39 *Why should any living mortal, or any man, offer complaint in view of his sins?*

Thought: If we really stop and think about it, in light of my sin, what do I really have to say about what happens to me??

Then when we are prone to complain about some problem or trial we are facing, we need to stop and think that

5. In light of the eternal happiness and glory that I will experience in heaven, this present trial is extremely brief and insignificant, even if it were to last a lifetime

Romans 8:18 *The sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.*

Thought: No matter how bad it might seem, it is nothing compared to the good stuff to come.

2 Corinthians 4:19 *For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory.*

Question: Why do we complain endlessly about something that according to this verse is only going to last for a moment.

Notice the wording in the verse *affliction, which is but for a moment*

Next, when I feel like complaining I need to remember that

6. My suffering is far less than that which Christ suffered, and He did not complain

I Peter 2:23 Who when He was reviled, did not revile in return; when he suffered, He did not threaten, but committed Himself to Him who judges righteously.

Project: I have a quick little project for us all. Look up really quickly where it says in our bibles that as Jesus, while hanging on the cross whined to the father and said father, this isn't fair.

Then

7. To complain is to say God is not just yet,

Genesis 18:25 Shall not the Judge of all the Earth do right and deal justly?" ?

Matthew 5:45 for He causes His sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous.

Then don't forget,

8. Faith and prayer exclude complaining

Psalms 34:4 I sought the Lord, and He answered me, and delivered from all my fears.

Thought: If we spent as much time praying as we do complaining we would be farther ahead wouldn't we?

Then we need to remember that

9. This difficulty I am complaining about is being used by God for my good and it is foolish for me to complain against it.

You say, NO WAY, but what does Romans 8:28 tell us?? *And we know that all things work together for the good to those who love God to those who are the called according to His purpose.*

Then when I feel like whining and complaining I need to remember that

10. Those more faithful than I have suffered far worse than I, and did so without complaint.

Lets go back to the great hall of faith in Hebrews 11:35-39 OR 2 Corinthians 11:23-27

Question: And what is the most we seem to complain about? Usually its, someone doesn't like me. Somebody didn't speak to me. The pastor asked me do something I didn't want to do. What else do we complain about today in our land of ease????

Question: How do our "troubles" compare to the passages you just read, from those who have gone on before us

The remember that

11. Complaining denies that God's grace is entirely sufficient.

2 Corinthians 12:9 *My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness*

So when we feel like complaining, part of the cure is to remember that *His grace is sufficient for you, for His strength is made perfect in weakness*

Finally when we come to the place that we feel like complaining is the only thing we can do, remember that

12. The greatest suffering, the worst trial or difficulty, can never rob me of that which is of greatest value to me and my greatest joy, namely the love of Christ.

Romans 8:35-39 Can anything ever separate us from Christ's love? Does it mean he no longer loves us if we have trouble or calamity, or are persecuted, or are hungry or cold or in danger or threatened with death?

36 *(Even the Scriptures say, "For your sake we are killed every day; we are being slaughtered like sheep.")*

No, despite all these things, overwhelming victory is ours through Christ, who loved us.

38 And I am convinced that nothing can ever separate us from his love. Death can't, and life can't. The angels can't, and the demons can't. Our fears for today, our worries about tomorrow, and even the powers of hell can't keep God's love away.

39 Whether we are high above the sky or in the deepest ocean, nothing in all creation will ever be able to separate us from the love of God that is revealed in Christ Jesus our Lord.

So when it is all said and done, I guess that although we do a lot of complaining, there are enough verses in our bibles to encourage us and let us know that there is a better day coming

Remember as some one once said, If you feel dog tired at night, it is because you growled all day. So if you are one tired puppy, why not work on stopping the growling, grumbling, and complaining? The best way to do that, is to go back and reread these verses of love, hope and help.

Don't forget: someone pungently stated that grumbling requires no talent, no self denial, no brains, no character

If we will work on it, we can turn our complaining, our moaning and groaning, and our grumbling into praising. When we do this it will get us much more victory, rest, peace, and joy as well as the fact that it will make our world a much better place won't it?

A heart of praise and love shows others just what Jesus can do in the lives of men but what do you think complaining shows others? Lets choose the avenue of praise and thanksgiving.

Closing thoughts: But what if you die without Christ? If you do, you will have something to grumble about for all eternity. To avoid grumbling in this life and in the life to come read a few more lines and see that there was someone who loved you, died for you and he did it without one word of grumbling. Instead he was a humble servant.

To personally meet him

Realize you are a sinner Romans 3:23

Understand that the payday for sin is death or eternal conscious separation from God.
Romans 6:23a

Know that there is a way of escape for you. Romans 6:23b and John 1:12

Desire to escape and pray this or a similar prayer.

"Dear God, I know I am a sinner. I am truly sorry for my sins, and I confess them all to You [name them]. Lord Jesus, forgive all my sins and come into my heart as my Saviour and Lord. I receive You right now. Help me from this time forward to live for You. Thank You for hearing and answering my prayer. In Jesus' name. Amen."

On the _____ day of _____ I became a Christian by inviting Jesus Christ into my life to forgive my sin.

Signed: _____

If you have further questions or have chosen to do this, be sure to let us know so we can help you, pray for you and encourage you in your new life.

You can reach us at lapeerchurch@gmail.com Subject line: (Salvation)