

WORSHIP

SUGGESTED WORSHIP SONGS:

This is the Day, Jesus, Great in Power, How Great is our God

WELCOME

Not Again. Share to the group something you often complain about.

WORD

PHILIPPIANS 2:14–16

¹⁴Do everything without complaining or arguing, ¹⁵so that you may become blameless and pure, children of God without fault in a crooked and depraved generation, in which you shine like stars in the universe ¹⁶as you hold out the word of life - in order that I may boast on the day of Christ that I did not run or labor for nothing.

We live in a society that likes to complain a lot. Because of our natural predisposition for selfishness, attitude of entitlement, and discontent, we oftentimes develop a complaining spirit. Consider it as a landmine because when we get into the habit of complaining all the time it will ruin not only our faith and trust in God but also our own lives as well. Complaining is one of the respectable sins that many of us tolerate from other people because we ourselves are also prone to it. Even people in the Bible like Adam, Moses, Aaron and Miriam, and Jonah among others had their share of complaining moments (**Exodus 5:22–23; Numbers 12; Jonah 4:9–10**).

WHAT IS COMPLAINING?

To complain is to express grief, pain, discontent or dissatisfaction. The Greek word used for it in the Bible refers to someone who is discontented with his lot in life.

Complaining is a symptom of a deep seated spiritual problem of seeing ourselves as if we are the center of the universe and that we deserve to be given everything. It is such a self-centered expression of discontent that leads us to fail trusting in God or submitting to His sovereign plan for our lives.

A person who is habitually complaining may already be infected with “complainitis”, a spiritual disease that is rooted in self-pity, frustration, disappointment, and most of all, a lack of trust in God.

WHY SHOULD WE STOP COMPLAINING?

1. **It is a serious sin against God.** Not all complaints are sinful. It is not a sin if we bring up our complaint to the right person who has the ability and authority to make things right, or when our

purpose is to give information, to seek advice or take action to solve the problem.

However, when we are fixated in our frustrations, we are in fact saying that God has no control and no power over what we are going through. It is as if we do not believe in His promises which in effect make Him a liar. All our complaints, in one way or another, are against the sovereignty of God, His plans and His purposes in our lives.

2. **It steals peoples' joy.** When we complain to our family, friends and others, we are robbing them of their joy. Selfishly, we are influencing them to sympathize with us and this can make them feel as hopeless as we are.
3. **It vandalizes peoples' view of God.** Whenever we complain, we paint a one-sided picture of God's apparent weakness. This can distort and destroy people's impression of who God really is and what He can actually do.
4. **It is contagious and it infects others.** The ten spies who made bad report about the Promised Land infected the rest of the Israelites who ended up grumbling. These spies died by a plague before the Lord (**Numbers 14:36–37**).
5. **No one will listen to the gospel message we proclaim if we ourselves do not display our trust in God.**

In this dark word of evil and sin, people can see Christ through the witness of our lives. However, if we do not have the Spirit of God in us, the light of Christ will not shine naturally from within us (**2 Corinthians 4:6**).

This is why we must rise up, shine and live like Christ through the word of life (**Philippians 2:15–16**). We must be like a lighthouse shining brightly in this dark

WORD (cont'd)

world giving lost people clear directions how to go to the shores of safety--an eternal life with Jesus Christ. The light of God is the life of God in us. Our transformed life is the best advertisement for the gospel. When we stop complaining, we start proclaiming God's sovereignty over the problem.

HOW DO WE STOP COMPLAINING?

To stop complaining, it will take more than repeatedly saying, "I'm not going to complain." It doesn't work that way. We need to have the right perspective and respond accordingly. Here are some ways to help us stop complaining:

1. **Take responsibility** – If we have legitimate complaint, let us take responsibility by learning to take our problems to the right person who can help solve the problem or can bring about change.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

(Leaders: Please choose questions that are appropriate to the level of spiritual maturity of your members)

1. **Shine for Jesus.** What is the command in **Philippians 2:14–16**? What are the blessings for obeying it?
2. **Why Complain.** Are you a complainer? What does it say about you and God every time you complain?
3. **From Complaining to Proclaiming.** In what ways can you turn your complaining to proclaiming God's sovereignty over the problems in your life?

WORKS

PRAY CARE SHARE IN ACTION

Your life is an effective advertisement of the gospel. Turning your complaining to thanksgiving gives you the opportunity to share Jesus to the people around you. Make a list of practical steps that you can willingly do, the next time you are tempted to complain:

1. Towards difficult people –
2. Towards the government –
3. Towards the traffic –
4. Towards the church/spiritual family –
5. Towards your family/parents/spouse/children –
6. Towards your work/boss/superior –

2. **Trust God** – When we see the situation hopeless and cannot find any person to help us, go to God and trust Him. Do not go to God with protest, but with prayer. Not with doubting but with dependence. Not with fists held high but with faith, believing and trusting Him in all things.
3. **Thank God** – Replace your complaints with thanksgiving (**Philippians 4:6**). Find things to thank God. Despite your situation, there are endless reasons why you can be thankful. Count your blessings one by one.

Stop complaining to God about how big your problems are and start telling your problems how BIG your God is. Our God is the almighty God. He can make things right. So, bring up to Him all your complaints as an admission of helplessness and dependence. Trust Him and His sovereignty.

WEEKLY PRAYER POINTS

I. Thanksgiving

- Worship God for who He is, what He has done, and what He will do in our lives

II. Country and the World

- Upright and moral governance of Public Servants and a God-centered Philippines
- Repentance and Salvation

III. Church

- That CCF Members would honor and love God and make disciples
- Elders, Pastors, Leaders, and Families
- Ministries and Churches worldwide

IV. CCF Facilities

- Worship and Training Center
- Prayer Mountain

V. Personal Concerns

- Deeper intimate relationship with God
- Righteous living
- Salvation of family and friends