

The Tendency to Complain

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Philippians 2:14 Do all things without complaining
Philippians 4:6 Don't complain about anything
Luke 24:52-53 returned to Jerusalem with great joy
1 John 5:13 these are written to you who believe
1 Timothy 6:7-8 We brought nothing into this world
Luke 12:22-23 Take no thought for the morrow
Hebrews 12:28 Since we are receiving a kingdom
Psalms 106:25 complained in their tents and did not
2 Corinthians 4:17 momentary troubles are achieving

- 1 Every day we are faced with choices—to be *commending* God for His blessings? Or *complaining* to someone of problems?
- 2 **AV Philippians 2:14** “*Do all things without murmurings [complaining NKJV] and disputings: 15 That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world.*”
- 3 We *begin* life with a complaining attitude—being dissatisfied with something—but that *must* change!
- 4 This original attitude will complain about *anything* and be upset over *everything*, but a new heart attitude from God will praise Him for many blessings received.

5 **NIV Philippians 4:6** “*Do not be anxious [do not complain] about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.*”

6 We are on earth to *glorify* God, and we *do* that when we *thank* Him for blessings received; for the healing of oppressions; for the protection He has given; and for the peace we have enjoyed from His compassion and love toward us.

7 Too often we are *complaining* about something, instead of *praising* God for the privilege of just *knowing* His Truth and learning how to *trust* Him for things every day.

8 Each new day we have the choice: *complain* about what we *want*—or *praise* God for what we *have*.

9 When Jesus ascended into Heaven, the disciples **AV Luke 24:52-53** “*Worshipped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy: And were continually in the temple, praising and blessing God.*”

10 *That* is our example—thanking God for many good things and blessings we enjoy—family, friends, food, and for providing us with protection, peace, homes, healing, and the promise of Heaven—just by *staying* in His will and *trusting* Him in faith.

11 We think of the horrific conditions in many parts of the world—floods, earthquakes, famines, drought, acts of terror, and military conflicts—all the result of unbelief, false religions, and their rejection of Jesus Christ.

12 The world is in constant rebellion against God and reaping the consequences of that rebellion.

13 It is a reminder that we need to praise Him every day for divine protection, peace, and

numerous other blessings. All God's gifts are to be received **NKJV 1 Timothy 4:3** “*With thanksgiving by those who believe and know the truth.*”

14 Having a Bible that explains how to conduct our life in a proper way and what attitudes we should have toward people—is reason enough to *praise* Him.

15 **NKJV 1 John 5:13** “*These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life.*”

16 Having that living hope of Heaven by accepting Jesus as Lord of our life is why we should always thank God and not complain.

17 Trusting God each day includes having faith in Him for divine healing without medical help; for daily needs without stored finances; and for divine protection without iron gates.

18 If we made a *list* of the things we now have, there would be little time left to complain about what we think we want.

19 Many things we use and have are taken for granted, but they are blessings from God, nonetheless. Our closets are full, and our cupboards are packed, but we often complain while millions in the world lack the essentials.

20 **NKJV 1 Timothy 6:7-8** “*We brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. And having food and clothing, with these we shall be content.*”

21 Everyone begins life with a complaining attitude—and one that will *not trust* God for anything but wants to *store* everything for the next day; the next week; or the next year.

22 But God wants us to *trust Him* one day at a time, and not burden *this* day with possible needs of the *next*.

23 AV Luke 12:22-23, “*Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat; neither for the body, what ye shall put on. The life is more than meat, and the body is more than raiment.*”

24 Keeping our faith in God is bearing *fruit for righteousness*—which we *must* do, because NLT Matthew 7:19 “*every tree that does not produce good fruit is chopped down and thrown into the fire.*”

25 We bear *spiritual fruit* when we obey *scriptural advice* NIV Colossians 3:13 “*Forgive as the Lord forgave you.*”

26 Greed wants more and never has *enough*—it is *one* of *seven* deadly sins.

27 We need to consider the foods, clothes, sports equipment, electronic devices, musical instruments, cell phones, and so much more we already have—because in recalling what we now have and use compels us to *praise* God.

28 NIV Hebrews 12:28 “*Since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us be thankful, and so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe.*”

29 Do we appreciate the invitation God has given to enter His Kingdom just by faith in His Son?

30 We should definitely praise God for doing the spiritual work in us that is needed. Our part is holding fast AV Hebrews 10:23 “*the profession of our faith without wavering; (for he is faithful that promised.)*”

31 Even with all the *blessings* we *enjoy*, Satan tries to make us dissatisfied with something and have us complain.

32 The Israelites witnessed the *miracle of manna* every morning—God was providing their needs, but they NKJV Psalm 106:25 “*complained in their tents, And did not heed the voice of the LORD.*”

33 God has a plan for this life, and we should enroll in His training course by reading His Word and following His instructions.

34 We should *praise* God for revealing any unscriptural attitude in us—and then *thanking* Him for helping us change that wrong mindset.

35 The man who could not walk was forgiven of his sins, so Jesus healed the man of a serious oppression. The man then, *jumped up* and *praised* God—since he believed in his heart that Jesus was the Messiah Acts 3:16!

36 God *cannot* change Malachi 3:6; James 1:17, so He will deliver, heal, protect, supply, and forgive anyone today—if they too are willing to *believe* and *act* in faith.

37 The Blood of Jesus is sufficient to atone for all the sins of the world, but only a few *believe* and *trust* God to receive the benefits of the sacrifice He made for us.

38 John 3:18 YLT “*He who is believing in him is not judged, but he who is not believing hath been judged already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.*”

39 Even if things are difficult, we should *not* complain but should *praise* God for the victory He has promised.

40 If it is a financial need, we can trust God to *supply* it—without going into debt, without letting anyone know we need cash, and without keeping any money in a bank savings account. It is our Atonement right to *claim* and *receive* by faith the money we need.

41 If someone steals from us, slanders our reputation, or insults our family—we are *not* to resent it or try to get back at them Romans 12:19. We are to *love* those who do not like us; do *good* for those who do *wrong* to us; and to *pray* for those who persecute us. Doing that makes us “*children of the Father in heaven*” Matthew 5:45.

42 Our tendency *should* be to *praise* God for teaching us *how* to live by faith in Him; for showing us how to *respond* to wrongs and to leave injustices in His hands—that is the scriptural way and *that* is what God *wants* us to do—but we have to *choose* that way.

43 The privilege of knowing and living God’s Truth—a Truth that includes His *giving* us a living hope of living forever with Him and with all who have gone before—*far exceeds* any temporary experiences on earth. Let us *not* complain about far less-important things.

44 NIV 2 Corinthians 4:17 “*For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all.*”

45 This eternal glory is by choice on *our* part—a choice *not* to complain but to *praise* God for His promise of Paradise!



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