

THE SILENT KILLER CALLED COMPLAINING

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Complaining is part of human life and has caused a lot of problems for many without them knowing that it is their complaining that is complicating their lives. Many are so used to it that they don't seem to know any other way of speaking or making their heart known to God and to man. Many are so used to it that they don't seem to have the capacity to stop. **Complaining is a bad and evil habit that cuts off the flow of grace in the area of complaint and makes situation worse with man groaning under it.** Complaining is a silent killer that many do not know its latent power.

Complaining is expressing grief, sorrow, or censure (express severe disapproval); finding fault; murmuring; lamenting; accusing of an offense. Complaining is the expression of regret, sorrow, or injury. To complain is to lament; to bewail.

FOUR TYPES OF COMPLAIN

1. To utter expressions of grief to God in prayer; to lament.

Job 7:11

11 "Therefore I will not keep silent; I will speak out in the anguish of my spirit, I will complain in the bitterness of my soul.

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Ps 77:3

3 I remembered God, and was troubled: I complained, and my spirit was overwhelmed.

KJV

It is important that we as believers pour out our heart to God in prayer and plead for His mercy and change our condition and meet our needs. Complaining in this sense is arguing your case in reference to the words of God and setting forth your case afterwards. This kind of complaint is not destructive. **The only problem is that there is a thin line between this kind of complaint and the other kind associated with murmuring.** Many times people actually murmur and cry out against God because of their situation. It is better to pour out your frustrations to God in prayer than to talk to people about it and dishonour God.

In prayer we pour out our hearts. We complain about what we are going through and appealing to God to help us out of the situation. **When we only complain and not plead for his merciful intervention, we provoke the anger of God.** Arguing your case in the presence of God in reference to the word of God is not the same thing as grumbling or complaining about how life is treating you and God is doing nothing about it. Pouring out your frustration to God with the aim of getting Him to help you is prayer and not the kind of complaining God is against. What He is against is grumbling.

God wants us to reason with Him and not complain and grumble. When Job was in distress, he complained. When God visited him and talked with him, God accused him of accusing Him (God). He called on Job to come and face Him, but Job declined and surrendered.

Job 7:11

11 "Therefore I will not keep silent; I will speak out in the anguish of my spirit, I will complain in the bitterness of my soul.

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Job 40:1-8

40:1 The LORD said to Job: 2 "Will the one who contends with the Almighty correct him? Let him who accuses God answer him!" 3 Then Job answered the LORD: 4 "I am unworthy-how can I reply to you? I put my hand over my mouth. 5 I spoke once, but I have no answer- twice, but I will say no more." 6 Then the LORD spoke to Job out of the storm: 7 "Brace yourself like a man; I will question you, and you shall answer me. 8 "Would you discredit my justice? Would you condemn me to justify yourself?

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God expects us to bear pain and call upon Him to deliver us and not complain when there is a delay or things don't turn out the way we want it.

2. To utter expressions of censure, find fault, criticize, reprimand, show disapproval, condemn, reproach, scorn, or resentment; to murmur; to find fault.

Num 11:1-3

11:1 Now the people complained about their hardships in the hearing of the LORD, and when he heard them his anger was aroused. Then fire from the LORD burned among them and consumed some of the outskirts of the camp. 2 When the people cried out to Moses, he prayed to the LORD and the fire died down. 3 So that place was called Taberah, because fire from the LORD had burned among them.

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This is the kind that is destructive. It is about grumbling and protesting to God. It sets you up against God. To grumble is to express dissatisfaction - to complain or mutter in a discontented way. To grumble is to say something as a complaint. **Complaining is rooted in unbelief and frustration.** And when one is unbelieving, he does not get help from God.

Many today think that complaining is the best way to let out their frustrations about their lives and probably get God to intervene. What they do not know is that complaining angers God and this brings punishment rather than help. It cuts off the grace of God and opens the door for the evil one to oppress and afflict the complainer.

3. To utter expressions of uneasiness, or pain.

For example: He complains of thirst. He complains of a head-ache.

4. To charge; to accuse of an offense; to present an accusation against a person to a proper officer.

It is usually used in legal matters. Example: To A B, one of the justices of the peace for the county of S, complains C D.

GOD DOES NOT LIKE PEOPLE COMPLAINING

Complaining makes God angry and causes God to judge and punish the complainants.

Num 11:1-3

11:1 Now the people complained about their hardships in the hearing of the LORD, and when he heard them his anger was aroused. Then fire from the LORD burned among them and consumed some of the outskirts of the camp. 2 When the people cried out to Moses, he prayed to the LORD and the fire died down. 3 So that place was called Taberah, because fire from the LORD had burned among them.

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And the very thing which you said is happening or will happen in your complaining is what God will make happen in your life to punish you and show you His displeasure. What He heard you say, He will do to.

Num 14:1-35

14:1 That night all the people of the community raised their voices and wept aloud. 2 All the Israelites grumbled against Moses and Aaron, and the whole assembly said to them, "If only we had died in Egypt! Or in this desert! 3 Why is the LORD bringing us to this land only to let us fall by the sword? Our wives and children will be taken as plunder. Wouldn't it be better for us to go back to Egypt?" 4 And they said to each other, "We should choose a leader and go back to Egypt."

5 Then Moses and Aaron fell facedown in front of the whole Israelite assembly gathered there. 6 Joshua son of Nun and Caleb son of Jephunneh, who were among those who had explored the land, tore their clothes 7 and said to the entire Israelite assembly, "The land we passed through and explored is exceedingly good. 8 If the LORD is pleased with us, he will lead us into that land, a land flowing with milk and honey, and will give it to us. 9 Only do not rebel against the LORD. And do not be afraid of the people of the land, because we will swallow them up. Their protection is gone, but the LORD is with us. Do not be afraid of them."

10 But the whole assembly talked about stoning them. Then the glory of the LORD appeared at the Tent of Meeting to all the Israelites. 11 The LORD said to Moses, "How long will these people treat me with contempt? How long will they refuse to believe in me, in spite of all the miraculous signs I have performed

among them? 12 I will strike them down with a plague and destroy them, but I will make you into a nation greater and stronger than they."

13 Moses said to the LORD, "Then the Egyptians will hear about it! By your power you brought these people up from among them. 14 And they will tell the inhabitants of this land about it. They have already heard that you, O LORD, are with these people and that you, O LORD, have been seen face to face, that your cloud stays over them, and that you go before them in a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night. 15 If you put these people to death all at one time, the nations who have heard this report about you will say, 16 'The LORD was not able to bring these people into the land he promised them on oath; so he slaughtered them in the desert.'

17 "Now may the Lord's strength be displayed, just as you have declared: 18 'The LORD is slow to anger, abounding in love and forgiving sin and rebellion. Yet he does not leave the guilty unpunished; he punishes the children for the sin of the fathers to the third and fourth generation.' 19 In accordance with your great love, forgive the sin of these people, just as you have pardoned them from the time they left Egypt until now."

20 The LORD replied, "I have forgiven them, as you asked. 21 Nevertheless, as surely as I live and as surely as the glory of the LORD fills the whole earth, 22 not one of the men who saw my glory and the miraculous signs I performed in Egypt and in the desert but who disobeyed me and tested me ten times-- 23 not one of them will ever see the land I promised on oath to their forefathers. No one who has treated me with contempt will ever see it. 24 But because my servant Caleb has a different spirit and follows me wholeheartedly, I will bring him into the land he went to, and his descendants will inherit it. 25 Since the Amalekites and Canaanites are living in the valleys, turn back tomorrow and set out toward the desert along the route to the Red Sea."

26 The LORD said to Moses and Aaron: 27 "How long will this wicked community grumble against me? **I have heard the complaints of these grumbling Israelites.** 28 **So tell them, 'As surely as I live, declares the LORD, I will do to you the very things I heard you say:** 29 In this desert your bodies will fall--every one of you twenty years old or more who was counted in the census and who has grumbled against me. 30 Not one of you will enter the land I swore with uplifted hand to make your home, except Caleb son of Jephunneh and Joshua son of Nun. 31 As for your children that you said would be taken as plunder, I will bring them in to enjoy the land you have rejected. 32 But you--your bodies will fall in this desert. 33 Your children will be shepherds here for forty years, suffering for your unfaithfulness, until the last of your bodies lies in the desert. 34 For forty years--one year for each of the forty days you explored the land--you will suffer for your sins and know what it is like to have me against you.' 35 I, the LORD, have spoken, and I will surely do these things to this whole wicked community, which has banded together against me. They will meet their end in this desert; here they will die."

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COMPLAINING IS A SIN AGAINST GOD

Complaining is not acceptable to God. He wants His people everywhere to walk by faith and wait patiently for Him to act. He doesn't want us to lean on our own understanding or insist on our own way, because His will is not always our will and He is committed to doing His own will and not the will of man. We complain when our desires are not granted and things don't work out the way we want them to. Complaining condemns us before God. And when one is condemned, God's grace is cut off, and instead of things getting better, it gets worse.

Phil 2:14-15

14 Do everything without complaining or arguing, 15 so 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

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Num 16:41-45

41 The next day the whole Israelite community grumbled against Moses and Aaron. "You have killed the LORD's people," they said. 42 But when the assembly gathered in opposition to Moses and Aaron and turned toward the Tent of Meeting, suddenly the cloud covered it and the glory of the LORD appeared. 43 Then Moses and Aaron went to the front of the Tent of Meeting, 44 and the LORD said to Moses, 45 "Get away from this assembly so I can put an end to them at once." And they fell facedown.

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GOD WANTS US TO GIVE HIM GLORY

The practice of thanksgiving destroys and conquers complaining. If a man cannot give glory to God for a given situation, he will definitely grumble or complain. When a man cannot give glory to God and honour Him, he comes under the curse of God. This means that many things will go wrong and things won't work well for him.

Mal 2:1-2

2:1 And now, O ye priests, this commandment is for you. 2 If ye will not hear, and if ye will not lay it to heart, to give glory unto my name, saith the LORD of hosts, I will even send a curse upon you, and I will curse your blessings: yea, I have cursed them already, because ye do not lay it to heart.

KJV

When there is no complaining, the people of God will be happy as God will continue to favour and bless them. As we walk in faith though we don't understand everything happening in our lives and why they do, the grace of God remain functional in our lives producing great results. This creates happiness as our lives are filled with testimonies.

Ps 144:14-15

14 That our oxen may be strong to labour; that there be no breaking in, nor going out; that there be no complaining in our streets. 15 Happy is that people, that is in such a case: yea, happy is that people, whose God is the LORD.

KJV

NO NEED TO COMPLAIN

Complaining is born out of the belief that God has abandoned or disregarded us especially in time of difficulty. But that is not true. The fact that God does not show up when we want Him to, does not mean that He will not show up or that He is not concerned about our situation.

Isa 40:27-31

27 Why do you say, O Jacob, and complain, O Israel, "My way is hidden from the LORD; my cause is disregarded by my God"? 28 Do you not know? Have you not heard? The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He will not grow tired or weary, and his understanding no one can fathom. 29 He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak. 30 Even youths grow tired and weary, and young men stumble and fall; 31 but those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.

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Don't give up waiting on the Lord and start complaining, rather, give your mind to God and let your heart praise Him for what He has done previously and what you are expecting. Your strength will be renewed if you will keep your hope in God. If you will guard your mind and keep negative and frustrating thoughts from your mind, you will not give up your faith in waiting on God.

YOU COMPLAIN BECAUSE OF WHAT YOU THINK

Negative thoughts about your situation make you to grumble and complain. The negative thoughts create anxiety, fear and doubts which cut off the flow of God's grace and complicate your situation. Negative thoughts fill the human mind with frustration and bitterness and take man on a dangerous trip that causes him to grumble and complain against God. When a man guards his thoughts and keeps it free from negatives, he will not grumble or complain against God.

Phil 4:4-7

4 Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! 5 Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. 6 Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. 7 And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

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CONCLUSION

Stop complaining and start trusting in patience. Complaining is not spiritually healthy, it works against you and not for you. Stop thinking that grumbling and complaining thought. It will not get God to attend to you urgently. When you plead your case or argue your case with the word of God in faith, God always responds positively. But when you grumble and complain against God, you provoke His displeasure and wrath. Do not allow yourself to be put in a box by the devil through complaining. Keep trusting God in all situations and never run out of patience with Him. He will not disappoint you. Kill complaining before it kills you. Cast it out of your life before it casts you out of God's favour and blessing.