

## Grumble, Grumble



***“Do all things without grumbling or disputing;  
so that you will prove yourselves to be  
blameless and innocent, children of God  
above reproach in the midst of a crooked and perverse  
generation,  
among whom you appear as lights in the world,  
holding fast the word of life,  
so that in the day of Christ  
I will have reason to glory  
because I did not run in vain nor toil in vain.”  
(Philippians 2:14-16 nasb)***

I've been out of bed for five minutes and already failed miserably at this instruction. The day has barely started and I've already complained and grumbled (and now I'm complaining and grumbling about my complaining and grumbling!)

It comes so easy, all this complaining and grumbling. Literally the words are out of my mouth before I even think about them. I'm sorry, Lord. For somewhere along the way I drew the conclusion that my life should be easy, my body shouldn't age, that not only should my needs be met but also my wants. Traffic should flow around me, the weather should be as I like, clothes should be easier to shop for, and a million-gazillion other things that disappoint in this world.

Yet, we are to be “appearing as lights in the world”? I’m thinking that my grumbling and complaining appear more as a neon sign flashing “discontent”. And definitely a total “lack of gratitude”. I'm sorry Lord. If all I'm doing is complaining, where is the proof that I am Your child?

Do you ever find yourself convicted by such thoughts? Certainly, I'm not the only one. What is it about grumbling and fighting that we enjoy so much that we continue to do it? In speaking with my daughter the other day, she mentioned a contentious situation and said the only way to change it was to set aside self. Wise words, for the root of grumbling and disputing (arguing) is SELF. In Philippians 2 Christ shows the example of how to deal with self - we must hang it in a cross! Even in the thought of that I find myself wanting to complain, I can come up with a million reasons why that shouldn't have to happen. Of course, none of them legitimate in light of what Christ did for us.

God’s word makes it clear that the only way to change this habit is to make a new habit to replace it. To be mindful, intentional, and make the corrections in my thought life so that what comes out of my mouth is more of praise of Him rather than a declaration of how this world disappoints. This world was never meant to satisfy. I must ***“take every thought captive unto the obedience of Christ”*** (2 Corinthians 2:5) so today I am convicted to replace the complaining with words of praise.

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God's word is truly able to transform our thoughts, so we must know it, apply it, "hold fast" to it. We have the blessing, as a child of God, of having His Spirit who is able to change us from the inside out, but we must submit to His control in our thoughts and actions. We must hold fast to the word, not the world. Today, let's appear as "lights to the world, as blameless and innocent, children of God above reproach", guarding against words of grumbling and complaining.

*Father, help us to keep our eyes on YOU, and not on self. May all of what would be complaints be turned to words of praise instead. Guard our mouths so that we are a light in the world that shows the way to You, not places a spotlight on us. I praise You for Your ability to know the grumbling words before they leave our mouth, and ask Your help to stop them. Help each of us to take every thought captive, to think before we speak, and to repent in each tempting moment that would bring complaining. Don't let us get away with it Lord, don't let us utter a word that is not pleasing to You without the conviction of Your Spirit. Help us to hold fast the word of life, for it is indeed life giving. Change us Lord, make our thoughts compatible with Yours and our words sweeter than honey today.*