

Elder Bobby Willis



Unbelief Leads To Complaining

Complaining is so easy to do. It just doesn't take much for any of us to complain about something. The car isn't running right, house is never clean enough to suit us, never enough time for a "vacation" away from it all, I am tired and it won't matter if I miss church today, and on and on. We even complain about the church; not enough visitors, no body else wants to help clean it, the preacher just didn't comfort me today, and etc., etc. Maybe you are the one person that never complains about any thing. Congratulations, be sure to send me an email and let me know there is a second person who has walked this earth sinless.

Now, if you will, let us look at some serious complaining by Israel which reflects some of the same things we do if we are not careful in allowing the flesh to get the best of us. If there was one thing the people of Israel knew how to do and do it really well was to complain. The book of Numbers records much of their griping and whining concerning their condition. True, it was harsh much of the time compared to our air-conditioned homes, decent automobiles, and lifestyles we live today.

Numbers 11:1 says, **"And when the people complained, it displeased the LORD."** Complaining about things instead of facing them head on while praying unto the Lord to give us the strength and courage to deal with them is displeasing to God. Why? Because it reflects our lack of faith. In Numbers 14:2 we find Israel murmuring, **"And all the children of Israel murmured against Moses and against Aaron: and the whole congregation said unto them, Would God that we had died in the land of Egypt! or would God we had died in this wilderness,..."** One more effort on their part to

complain is in Numbers 17:12 when they felt they were about to die (perish); • **“And the children of Israel spake unto Moses, saying, Behold, we die, we perish, we all perish,...”**

When I am talking about complaining, be sure to understand that I am not talking about the kids not picking up their toys like they should, or about how quickly the dust settles on the end table. We all do that and God is not concerned with those type of things. However, constant complaining about our situation in life shows our lack of confidence and faith in our Lord helping us face our trials, afflictions, and discouragements.

In Mark chapter 9 we find a healing which Jesus did. There was a man among a multitude with a son with a dumb spirit. This boy was in dire distress. The father said, **“I have brought unto thee my son...”** The disciples had been unable to help the lad. **“Jesus said unto him, If thou canst believe, all things are possible to him that believeth. And straightway the father of the child cried out, and said with tears, Lord, I believe; help thou mine unbelief.”** (Mark 9:23-24).

The rendering of this father’s story with his son is one of faith and belief in the power of our Lord Jesus Christ to help us in our time of need. The father stated that he believed but also realized there were times when unbelief could cause him to murmur and complain just like the Israelites did when they were faced with hardships and trials. Yes, times are difficult and we all face adversities, so let us not complain, but rather pull up our boot straps and pray unto the Lord to **“help thou mine unbelief”** so that I not complain and murmur and displease my Lord. ***“Think About It!”***