

James Crawford – “From Grumbling to Success”
Sunday Family Service – Series “Complaining is Draining” 5-22-22

“From Grumbling to Success”

Introduction:

Most of us try to complain our way out of our misery. Has this ever worked once? This only adds to our miserable situation. Research from Stanford University found that engaging in complaining or simply hearing someone complain for more than 30 minutes could physically damage our brains.

This negative influence effects our health, our success in life and our overall joy factor! Research shows that we complain on average 15-30 times per day. If we persist, we cannot be successful. In this message we are going to teach you how to go “From Grumbling to Success.”

Come be fed.

1. What is Complaining?

Merriam–Webster

1: to express grief, pain, or discontent; complaining about the weather

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2: to make a formal accusation or charge

2. The Father Heart “No Fly” Zone

Flies are annoying little pests, aren't they? Our online church family loves each other, and we enjoy our positive vibe. We build each other up and never tear each other down with grumbling. That is why there is life in this place. The Bible teaches us to protect the mood here. This is not just the pastor's job, this is every congregant's assignment!

Romans 16:17

I urge you, brothers and sisters, to keep your eyes on those who cause **dissensions** and **create obstacles** or **introduce temptations [for others] to commit sin, [acting in ways] contrary to the doctrine which you have learned. Turn away from them.**

3. Helen Keller Knew the Secret to Success

“Be happy with what you have, while working for what you want.”

Helen Keller

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Helen was a prolific author, political activist and international speaker. What makes her remarkable is that she was deaf and blind since early childhood.

If she can make the world better and be content, so can you. We cannot be victors if we are victims.

4. God May Be Testing You

God never promises His creation a trouble-free life. Job is our great example of refusing to sin against God when others tempt us to.

Job 2:10

He replied (**to his wife**), “You are talking like **a foolish woman**. Shall we **accept good from God**, and **not trouble**?” In all this, **Job did not sin in what he said**.

5. Complaining Moves You Out of God’s Will

Then Miriam and Aaron spoke against Moses... 2 ...And the Lord

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heard it. 9 So the anger of the Lord was aroused against them, 14 ...Then the Lord said to Moses, “If Miriam’s father had but spit in her face, would she not be shamed seven days? Let her be shut out of the camp seven days, and afterward she may be received again.” 15 So Miriam was shut out of the camp...

6. Give Grace Not Grumbles

We are called to always speak positively, not negatively. If we grumble, we will grieve God’s Spirit.

Ephesians 4:29-30

29 Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers. 30 And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God...

7. How To Correct Grumblers

Tactfully, firmly, and immediately.

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8. How Complaining Deceives Us

We start believing we are justified in our complaining. God is faithful to teach us what we are doing wrong by His chastening. He often uses our spouses, the Bible, friends, and pastors to bring correction.

We often wind up complaining ourselves out of an awesome marriage, job, church, or friendship. We justify ourselves all the way out and then repeat this cycle as a demonic stronghold of grumbling and deception forms. This puts us outside the camp so that God can get our attention.

It is here that we learn to stop accusing and blaming others. In this wilderness we learn to focus on the positives and solutions. We also learn how to walk in the attitude of gratitude.

This is how we ultimately become successful in our marriage, workplace and calling on our life!

9. How Complaining Leads to Death

Warnings From Israel’s History

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10 For I do not want you to be ignorant of the fact, brothers and sisters, that our ancestors were all under the cloud and that they all passed through the sea. 2 They were all baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea.

3 They all ate the same spiritual food 4 and drank the same spiritual drink; for they drank from the spiritual rock that accompanied them, and that rock was Christ. 5 Nevertheless, God was not pleased with **most of them**; their bodies were scattered in the wilderness.

6 Now these things occurred as **examples to keep us** from setting our hearts on evil things as they did. 7 Do not be idolaters, as some of them were; as it is written: “The people sat down to eat and drink and got up to indulge in revelry.”

8 We should not commit sexual immorality, as some of them did—and in one day twenty-three thousand of them died. 9 We should not test Christ, as some of them did—and were killed by snakes. 10 And do not grumble, as some of them did—and were killed by the destroying angel.

Sermon Discussion

1- How has complaining moved you out of a good situation?

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- 2- What would you do differently now?
- 3- When is the last time you complained?