

Connecting Church and Home

Quarter 4, Week 3 :: The People Complain

Treasure Story: Numbers 11

If you had a problem in your life and God solved it in a miraculous way, you would be so thankful that you would never complain again, right? The truth is, however, that you and I would probably respond just like the children of Israel did in today's Treasure Story. They had witnessed miracle after miracle—culminating with God giving them His law and coming to dwell with them in the tabernacle. Now God was about to move them closer to taking the land that He had promised them. But instead of being in awe and thankful, the people complained about their misfortunes. God punished the people, but He still showed them mercy by having His Spirit come down on 70 elders to assist Moses in guiding the people. God continues to show us this kind of mercy and grace today by giving us His Holy Spirit when we accept Christ as our Savior.

Connect

“Wise leaders should have known that the human heart cannot exist in a vacuum. If Christians are forbidden to enjoy the wine of the Spirit they will turn to the wine of the flesh for enjoyment . . . Christ died for our hearts and the Holy Spirit wants to come and satisfy them.”

- A. W. Tozer

When we become self-centered and forgetful, we place ourselves in Satan's hands to complain and rebel against God's goodness. This is exactly what happened to the children of Israel as they set out from Mount Sinai to the Promised Land. The way God dealt with this was to get their attention and then send His Spirit on the elders to help Moses shepherd the people. We have been given His Holy Spirit to help shepherd us so that we will live thankfully and joyfully under His rule. Here are a few thoughts on how to acknowledge the work of the Spirit and avoid disobedience and dissatisfaction:

- **Pray for Conviction:** We sow seeds of dissatisfaction in our hearts and don't even realize it. This occurs when we aren't thankful for what we have and begin to complain and be restless. The Holy Spirit, however, can help reveal even the slightest trend toward sin. If we pray and take time to listen to the Lord through the Holy Spirit's teaching and guidance, we can root out sin before it takes a deep hold on our hearts.
- **Pray for Remembrance:** God graciously supplies what we need every day, but our memories tend to forget or ignore His goodness. Ask the Lord to use the Holy Spirit to remind you of who God is and what He has done for you. You will be truly amazed at all the good things you have been given. Taking the time to reflect on all the things that the Lord has done for you just in the last week can yield benefits and blessings that might surprise you.

My Mission As Parent

- Do you tend to focus on your blessings or on things you want but don't have? What a sweetness it is to constantly foster a sense of gratitude in your heart and in your home.
- How often do you rely on the Holy Spirit to help you see and confess your sin? What can you do to make reflection and confession a regular part of your daily routine as a parent and involve your children as well?

Prayer Points

- Pray for the Lord to use the Holy Spirit to convict you of sin in general and ingratitude in particular.
- Ask the Lord for help to remember all the wonderful things that He has done to sustain your family. May you never forget how He sent Jesus and then the Holy Spirit to help you overcome sin and live holy lives.
- Pray with your children and ask the Lord to help you to humbly submit to His leadership and authority. Thank Him for sending His Spirit to teach you humility and submission.

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