

## Exodus 16:6-7

*Then Moses and Aaron said to all the children of Israel, "At evening you shall know that the LORD has brought you out of the land of Egypt. And in the morning you shall see the glory of the LORD; for He hears your complaints against the LORD. But what are we, that you complain against us?"*

I did a search for the word "**Complain**", and the first time it is mentioned in the bible is here in the book of Exodus, after God had delivered the Children of Israel out of Egypt, with them complaining. "*for He hears your complaints against the LORD.*"

Yet, we all complain once in a while, but some complain all the time. But whether it's once in while or all the time, are you doing the same thing that the Children of Israel were doing. "*complaints against the LORD*"?

Yesterday in our devotional on Colossians 3:1-2, we talked about worrying and how we worry so much because our focus is on things of this world, not on things in heaven.

† **Colossians 3:2** *Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth.*

Today we will look at those same things that we worry about, and instead of worrying about them, we are complaining about them. People complain about so many things like, he or she doesn't like me. I hate my job. I hate my car. I hate my home. I am not happy in my marriage, I don't like my neighbors, etc....

When you read the book of Genesis, and what some of these guys went through, you discover that they went through some gnarly things. Think of Noah who built an ark for 120 years. But we never read of him complaining about it, or while he is in the ark for almost a year or after he came out of the ark.

Abraham was called to a new land and had a wife who couldn't have children, even though she did when she was 90, and God asked Abraham to sacrifice that child, which was his only son, the son of promise from God. But with all that Abraham went through, no complaining.

What about Joseph, who was sold into slavery by his brothers, and falsely accused of attempted rape. But you don't read of one mention of the word "**complain**" coming from him either. No, we don't read of the word complain at all in the book of Genesis, but we do in the next book, the book of Exodus. And who is complaining? God's chosen people, Israel. And that same complaining that they did, so do many in the church (The Bride of Christ) today.

But when you are complaining, do you realize that you are complaining against God and what He has given you? Hasn't He given you your job, your spouse, your kids, the church you are in, your family, your friends, your home, your food, etc.... But when you complain against these things, you are actually complaining against God and what He has given you. Remember earlier this week we read of Martha complaining to Jesus about her sister Mary, because it was all about her and what she (Martha) wanted, not what Mary needed.

We love the verses that say to, ***“Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.” 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18*** But if you are complaining, how can you really be ***“rejoicing”*** and ***“giving thanks”***?

So, stop complaining all of the time, or part of the time, about a lot of things, or a few things, but rather ***“Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.” 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18***