Why Do You Complain, Jacob?

November 8, 2026 | Pastor Scott George

Isaiah 40:27-31, ***Why do you complain, Jacob?***

Why do you say, Israel, "My way is hidden from the Lord;
my cause is disregarded by my God"?
28 Do you not know?
Have you not heard? The Lord is the everlasting God, the
Creator of the ends of the earth. He will not grow tired or
weary, and his understanding no one can fathom.
29 He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of
the weak.
30 Even youths grow tired and weary, and young men
stumble and fall;
31 but those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength.
They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not
grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.

What Others Are Saying About Complaining

- "If you took one-tenth the energy you put into complaining and applied it to solving the problem, you'd be surprised by how well things can work out. Complaining does not work as a strategy."
  - Randy Pausch
- "Constant complaining is the poorest sort of pay for all the comforts we enjoy."
  - Benjamin Franklin
- "The man who complains about the way the ball bounces is likely the one who dropped it."
  - Lou Holtz
- "When a man is full of the Holy Ghost he is the very last man to be complaining of other people."
  - D.L. Moody

What Is Complaining?

Expressing dissatisfaction, resentment, or grievance about circumstances, people or God, often in a grumbling or murmuring way that reflects discontent with God's providence and fails to trust His goodness.

Why Do We Complain?

1. It's enjoyable
2. It takes the focus off of our issues
3. Our expectations are not met
4. Desire to control
5. We forget God's Grace and Goodness
6. It's habitual
7. Selfishness and immaturity rule our hearts
8. Insecurity and jealousy issues
9. We feel the world needs our input and opinion
10. It's easy

What Is the Impact of Complaining?

1. Quenches joy and gratitude
2. Breeds discontentment and unbelief
3. Corrupts your speech and heart
4. Spreads contagiously and dangerously
5. Destroys relationships
6. Dulls your worship
7. Invites God's discipline
8. Weakens your witness
9. Questions God's sovereignty and goodness
10. Dishonors God
11. Repels great people away from you

What Does God Say About Complaining?

1 Corinthians 10:10, *And do not grumble, as some of them did—and were killed by the destroying angel.*

James 5:9, *Don't grumble against one another, brothers and sisters, or you will be judged. The Judge is standing at the door!*

Exodus 16:8, *Moses also said, "You will know that it was the Lord when he gives you meat to eat in the evening and all the bread you want in the morning, because he has heard your grumbling against him. Who are we? You are not grumbling against us, but against the Lord."*

How to Live Life Free From Complaining

1. Remind yourself of how seriously God takes complaining
2. Develop an awareness of how often you complain
3. Apply the "one-minute rule"
4. Act when you can; accept when you can't
5. Replace a complaint with a prayer
6. Ask the Holy Spirit to help you live a God-honoring life

In case you missed it …

Answers:

1. *Enjoyable*
2. *Control*
3. *Selfishness*
4. *Easy*
5. *Quenches*
6. *Corrupts*
7. *Destroys*
8. *Weakens*
9. *Dishonors*
10. *Remind*
11. *Awareness*
12. *Replace*
13. *Help*