



Lessons for Life

My Complaints

Instalife – 4

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"Do everything without complaining or arguing, so that you may become blameless and pure, children of God without fault in a crooked and depraved generation, in which you shine like stars in the universe." Philippians 2:14-15 (NIV)

I. Characteristics of Common Complainers

1. The NEGATIVE

Favorite Phrase – It's just not FAIR.

(David) "Have I been wasting my time? Why take all the trouble to be pure? All I get out of it is trouble and woe."
Psalm 73:13-14 (LB)

"They took their money and started grumbling against the employer ... 'We put up with a whole day's work in the hot sun -- yet you paid them the same as you paid us.'" Matthew 20:11-12 (GN)

2. The SUFFERING

Favorite phrase – No one APPRECIATES me.

"Moses said to the Lord, 'Why pick on me, to give me the burden of a people like this? I can't carry this nation by myself! ... If you're going to treat me like this, please kill me right now -- it will be a kindness! Let me out of this impossible situation!'" Numbers 11:11-15 (LB)

3. The CYNICAL

Favorite Phrase – Nothing will ever CHANGE.

(Solomon) "Life is useless...you spend your life working and what do you have to show for it?...the world stays just the same...what has been done before will be done again." Ecclesiastes 1:2-4,9 (GN)

4. The UNPLEASABLE

Favorite Phrase – Is that the BEST you can do?

II. CONQUERING COMPLAINING

1. Own Your ATTITUDE

"A man who refuses to admit his mistakes can never be successful. But if he confesses and forsakes them, he gets another chance." Proverbs 28:13 (LB)

2. Oversee Your ACTIONS

"Some people ruin themselves by their own stupid mistakes and then blame the Lord." Proverbs 19:3 (GN)

3. Offer APPRECIATION

"Give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus." 1 Thessalonians 5:18 (NIV)

"...I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances." Philippians 4:11 (NIV)

4. Observe HIM

"This small and temporary trouble we suffer will bring us a tremendous and eternal glory, much greater than the trouble. So we fix our attention, not on the things that are seen, but on the things that are unseen. What is seen lasts only for a time, but what cannot be seen lasts forever." 2 Corinthians 4:17-18 (GN)

5. Order Your WORDS

"Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen." Ephesians 4:29

"Don't keep on scolding and nagging your children, making them angry and resentful, rather, bring them up with loving discipline...and godly advice."
Ephesians 6:4 (LB)