

Don't Complain – Look Forward – Believe

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1. Have you ever complained? At times has your complaining been a little too over the top?
 - a. During a war a soldier was separated from his unit. The fighting had been intense, and in the smoke and the crossfire he had lost touch with his comrades and could not see them anywhere. Alone in the hills, he heard some enemy soldiers coming in his direction. Scrambling for a place to hide, he found his way to a small cave in the rock. Quickly he crawled inside. He was safe for the moment, but shortly he realized that once the enemy soldiers who were looking for him climbed up the ridge, they would quickly search all of the caves, and they would be sure to find him. As he waited, he prayed, “Lord, if it be Your will, please protect me. I accept whatever is Your will though, because I love You and trust You. Amen.” After praying, he lay quietly, listening to the enemy beginning to draw close. He thought, “Well, I guess the Lord isn’t going to help me out of this one.” Then he saw a spider begin to build a web over the front of his cave. As he watched, listening to the enemy soldiers who were searching for him all the while, the spider layered strand after strand of web across the opening of the cave. “Ha,” he laughed to himself. “What I need is a brick wall, and what the Lord has sent me is a spider web. God does have a sense of humor.” As the enemy drew closer, he watched from the darkness of his hideout and could see them searching one cave after another. As they came to his, he got ready to make his last stand. To his amazement, however, after glancing in the direction of his cave, they moved on. Suddenly, he realized that with the spider web over the entrance, his cave looked as if no one had entered for quite a while. “Lord, forgive me,” prayed the young man. “I had forgotten that in You a spider’s web is stronger than a brick wall.”
 - b. I would have probably said the same thing, “You are kidding me, you sent me a spider?”
 - c. Complaining can come easily and fast, sometimes without even thinking
2. Always Look For the Good
 - A. I have asked this question in the past, and maybe from this pulpit, “Why didn’t God put eyes in the back of our head.” He could have, He is our creator.
 - B. Alma – “Do you look forward with an eye of faith.” That is why we don’t have eyes in the back of our head, He wants us looking forward, not backward.

Ammon – The Optimist. Mr. Positive. - Alma 17: 28–30;

29) Now they wept because of the fear of being slain. Now when Ammon saw this his heart was swollen within him with joy; ... I may lead them to believe in my words.

30) And now, these were the thoughts of Ammon, when he saw the afflictions of those whom he termed to be his brethren.

C. Shunammite Woman – 2 Kings 4: 8-37 (She was called a “great” woman).

- (i) I perceive that this is a holy man of God...let us make a chamber
- (ii) “You took care of me. What do you want” – she didn’t want anything, Elisha learned she had no child so blessed her that she would receive a son. The woman’s response was basically “Don’t be kidding me”
- (iii) My head hurts... sat with him until noon when he died... laid him on the same bed she made for Elisha
- (iv) I’m going to see the man of God. When her husband was trying to talk her out of going her response was “... It shall be well”
- (v) when Elisha’s servant met her she said ... “It is well”... She kept going to Elisha, to the source because she believed. Those of us who have lost a child, can you imagine saying “It is well.”
- (vi) Elisha healed her son

3. Keep Hope Alive!!

- A. We don’t plan to lose hope. We don’t expect to lose hope. But sometimes people or circumstances will knock us off the hope train.
- B. If we have a health crisis do we say – “I’ll never get better”
- C. If we have a job disappointment do we say – “I’ll never get a new job”
- D. If we have a bad relationship do we say – “I’ll never find someone”

4. A bad break does not change who we are.

- a. We are still a son/daughter of our Heavenly Father. We are HIS!! And God is a God of miracles. It is time to get into the solution!

5. IT IS TIME TO HIT DELETE!!

- A. Romans 12:2 - And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.
- a. Health Crisis – “I don’t feel well today but I’m going to be like the Shunammite woman – It shall be well”
- b. Job disappointment – “Heavenly Father, I know you have a better opportunity in store for me”

c. Relationship – Be like Ammon and say, “my heart is swollen with joy that it didn’t work out with those other guys. Heavenly Father, You have someone better in store for me and I’m going to keep myself ready!! “

6. Who are we? – Children of the most High God!!!

a. He is a God of miracles. Let’s be what He asks - faithful and believing.

Let’s Replace: COMPLAINING DOUBT FEAR with;
Know we are: ACCEPTED APPROVED CONFIDENT

b. CONCLUSION/TESTIMONY