

Turning *Grumbling* into GROANING

God loves groaning; He despises grumbling. He listens when we groan, but punishes when we grumble. Thousands die when we grumble; millions are saved when we groan.

“I have heard their groaning,” God told Moses when He was calling Moses to be Israel’s deliverer (Acts 7:34. See also Exodus 2:24 and 6:5).

The Spirit within us groans for the time when we shall experience the full redemption of our bodies, Paul tells the Romans (8:23). We even intercede for the lost *“with groans too deep for words.”* (8:26). *“We groan longing to be clothed with our heavenly dwelling* (2 Corinthians 5:2,4).

On the other hand, the Lord resolutely declares, *“I will rid myself of this constant grumbling”* (Numbers 17:5). See also Numbers 14:2,27,29,36; 16:11,41, and Exodus 15:24; 16:2,7,8, and 17:3.

“Do not grumble as some of them did and were killed by the destroying angel,” Paul warns the first century believers. (1 Corinthians 10:10)

“Don’t grumble against each other...” James further admonished (5:9).

The apostle Paul caught hold of this message so strongly that he was able to say to the Corinthians, “I delight in insults!” (2 Corinthians 12:10)

Why? Because it gave him opportunity for the Spirit of God to rise up in him so strongly that he could see God’s work in the midst of great adversity. When he was shipwrecked he preached the gospel. When he was imprisoned, he sang hymns and saved the prisoners. When his court trials were going awry, he appealed to Rome, and was able to speak the message of salvation to Roman rulers all the way to the capitol city.

Practice groaning! Avoid grumbling!

- i. *by the destroying angel*
- ii. Ex. 15:24; 16:2, 7, 8; 17:3.No water, no meat, no melons.....
- iii. Num 14 14:2,27, 29, 36; 16:11, 41; 17:5, *I will rid myself of this constant **grumbling***
- iv. James 5:9, ***Don’t grumble against each other, or you will be judge***
- v. ***Paul said he delights in insults!!***