1. It Hurts you!

"The Greek word translated "complainer" means literally "one who is discontented with his lot in life." It is akin to the word *grumbler*. Complaining is certainly not a fruit of the Spirit (*So it does not come from God*) and, in fact, is detrimental to your peace, joy, and patience that come from the Spirit. For the Christian, complaining is destructive and debilitating personally and only serves to make our witness to the world more difficult."

Gal 5:22-25 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law. And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts. If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit. Let us not be desirous of vain glory, provoking one another, envying one another.

2. It Hurts our witness for Him!

"Clearly, as believers we are challenged not to grumble or complain, it hurts us and our witness!"

Php. 2:14,15 Do all things without murmurings and disputings: That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world;

3. It Hurts others!

"We are to love one another deeply so that we may become "blameless and pure" in God's eyes. If we grumble and complain, it shows how worldly we still are."

1Pe 4:9 Use hospitality one to another without grudging.

Jas 4:1 (ERV) Do you know where your fights and arguments come from? They come from the selfish desires that make war inside you.

4. It opens the door in your life to evil workings!

A complaining spirit leads to fighting and quarrelling because complaints come from unfulfilled "desires, which lead to envy and <u>strife</u>."

Jas 3:16 For where envying and strife is, there is confusion and every evil work.

There are *dozens* more scriptures on why God does not want us to complain in His Word!

What is the Holy Spirit Saying to you today:

Questions to ask yourself before you start complaining about your church:

If the church service depended solely on MY worship..... how full of worship would the service be?

If the church had to depend solely on MY faithfulness..... how faithful would my church be?

If the church had to survive solely on MY prayer life..... how much prayer would be going on?

If the church could only go as deep as MY relationship with God goes..... how deep would my church be?

If we had to make it on MY Bible reading and knowledge...... How knowledgeable would my church be?

If we have to go by my offerings, how BIG would the church outreach be?

If the preaching depended solely on my response to the preaching and the altar call...... how responsive would my church be?

If it all depended on me...... What would happen?

Before you start complaining...... make sure you're: The first one praying The first one worshiping The first one reading and studying The first one responding The first one fasting The first one faithful The first one giving

"I just don't get anything out of his preaching" isn't a valid argument. You're there to worship Jesus & serve the lost.



Remember: we can't complain if we're not being what we say we want in any area of life!

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