Dangers of Murmuring and Disputing

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God bless you,

Oluwatobi S. Adewuyi

Coordinator

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Topic:

Dangers of Murmuring and Disputing

Bible Text: Philippians 2:14

Teacher: Oluwatobi S. Adewuyi

Our everlasting Father we say thank you for the opportunity you give us to gather here in peace not in pieces be thou exalted in Jesus name, we commit tonight teaching to your hands father take control in the name of Jesus, teach us by yourself, let's be the doer of your word and not the hearer only in the name of Jesus,at the end of everything let have the full cause to glorify your name in Jesus most powerful name we've prayed.

Good evening everyone of you in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, I welcome you to today's study, please follow carefully as we delve into the study even as the Lord Jesus Christ Himself opens our understanding to His world. Amen

Philippians 2:14 KJV

Do all things without murmurings and disputings:

It is possible to be caught in the web of complaining and disputing if one is not careful, there are many things surrounding us today which can make us fall into the snares of murmuring and disputings, there are challenges of life that when we pass through them can weaken one's faith if one is not careful, and the moment our faith gets weakened fear sets in and murmuring begins.

What does it mean to murmur?

- It means to complain

- it means to grumble.

Looking at what Paul said by saying nothing should be done in murmur we can see that we must take heed to ourselves that we don't find ourselves doing so for any reason because it is easy to fall into it. Therefore, no matter what it is that should make us murmur we should not. Murmuring can be towards.

1. God

2. Man

1. God hates murmuring so much that He can destroy a person for it. In his letter to the church at Corinth Paul made a reference to the children of Israel who murmured and were destroyed. 1 **Corinthians 10:10 KJV** Neither murmur ye, as some of them also murmured, and were destroyed of the destroyer. Some people are fond of complaining to God, some even think they are praying when complaining, the Lord hates this so much, if only they know. You need to stop complaining to the Lord. It is true that there are times that you would be tempted to complain due to frustration but you must quickly guard yourself, one thing about complaining is that it starts from the heart. Most times, when the heart is in heaven, complaints automatically follow. We must be very careful because of the dangers that come along with complaints.

We need to learn from what happened to the children of Israel when they were in the wilderness. **Numbers 11:1-3 KJV** And when the people complained, it displeased the Lord : and the Lord heard it ; and his anger was kindled; and the fire of the Lord burnt among them, and consumed them that were in the uttermost parts of the camp. [2] And the people cried unto Moses; and when Moses prayed unto the Lord, the fire was quenched. [3] And he called the name of the place Taberah: because the fire of the Lord burnt among them. Their complaints displeased the

Lord so much that His anger was kindled against them and He sent His fire to burn them. These men were roasted alive because of what someone would call an ordinary complaint.

Complaining does not make one see the faithfulness of God, looking into the story of the children of Israel right from the Old testament it is one filled with numerous wonderful deeds of God that proved His greatness and power among them. But because of the little challenges they faced in the wilderness they began to complain. **Psalm 106:13 KJV** They soon forgat his works; they waited not for his counsel: this has been their habit that even after some of them were destroyed with fire they still complained. **Deuteronomy 9:22 KJV** And at Taberah, and at Massah, and at Kibroth-hattaavah, ye provoked the Lord to wrath. they still murmured which made Moses remind them of how they faced God's wrath at Kibroth-hattaavah.

(Please check our telegram library and search for our previous teaching titled **Kibroth-hattaavah** to understand better)

Despite all what the Lord did for them they still complained, they refused to see the faithfulness of God because of their situation. This is exactly what happens to many today they do not reason about God's past wonders and faithfulness which is why they keep complaining to Him not knowing that God hates it so much, Paul knows that complains are dangerous that is why he said "let nothing" no matter what it is, don't let it be done in complains.

Murmuring Kindles the anger of God and when God gets angry with a man who would save him? the Israelites were lucky that Moses was present to intercede for them assuming there was no intercessor what would have become of them? God moves back from complainers and would decide not to answer them. We must understand that murmuring about things we don't like does not change the situation nor does it move the hand of God even

when we complain in our hearts the Lord hears it and is displeased. Many who should be intercessors themselves become complainers as such they have pushed God away from helping them and others.

Assuming Moses also joined the children of Israel to complain, the killing of the children of Israel might have continued. When we complain we tell God that we do not see any reason to thank Him. It shows lack of gratitude and the scriptures say we should give thanks for All things all things it says. **Ephesians 5:20 KJV** Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ; If we are to give thanks to the Father for all things then there would be no room for murmuring because thanksgiving will fill our mouths.

2. **To man:** it is possible to murmur against men although it has been said that we should not complain but one can fall into the temptation of complaining to man. This does not mean that we should not speak about something we find not okay. But it should be tendered with understanding and not be done in anger. To murmur is to utter words indistinctly or with a low voice in discontent.

There are some children who cannot do anything they are asked to do without murmuring. They will start saying words that cannot be heard to show a sign of discontent in what they are asked to do, this is not good enough. Moses was like a parent to the children of Israel and they murmured against him which made him make a mistake he would not have made on a normal ground. **Numbers 20:10-12 KJV** And Moses and Aaron gathered the congregation together before the rock, and he said unto them, Hear now, ye rebels; must we fetch you water out of this rock? [11] And Moses lifted up his hand, and with his rod he smote the rock twice: and the water came out abundantly, and the congregation drank, and their beasts also. [12] And the Lord

spake unto Moses and Aaron, Because ye believed me not, to sanctify me in the eyes of the children of Israel, therefore ye shall not bring this congregation into the land which I have given them. God told Moses to speak to the rock, but he smote it twice and this annoyed the Lord.

Moses did so because of the character of the children of Israel because this time around their murmurings turned into contention. Looking into marriages, when there's too much complaint by one of the spouses the other would find it hard to think straight for his/her mind would be overwhelmed. So many complaints cause unnecessary errors, instead of murmuring in dissatisfaction it is better to engage in a reasonable dialogue. 1 Peter 4:8-9 KJV And above all things have fervent charity among yourselves: for charity shall cover the multitude of sins. [9] Use hospitality one to another without grudging.

Apostle Peter said all things should be done in fervent love. That is, zealous love, being hospitable to one another and not grudgingly towards one another. When people know us as those who always complain they would start avoiding us. It makes people uncomfortable around us. You must know that murmuring does not change anything, it can only make things get worse. Some parents even complain to their children this is not good enough. It can affect the children's mental health.

Disputing

It means to engage in argument especially to argue irritably or with irritating persistence

Paul the apostle says further that all things should not be done disputing, that is, in argument. We are commanded not to argue irritably or with irritating persistence. Due to the many false

teachings flying around today one might be forced to fall into the trap of disputing but we must be careful, the moment we see that the subject matter of the discussion is not spoken of amicably but with contention we should try as much as possible to do away with it. There are many controversial matters today which are not really controversial but the world has made it controversial because of the rate of the evil committed in this generation.

By saying "nothing" Paul was saying no matter what it is it must not be done by disputes because this will certainly lead to more sins, we must avoid things that can lead us to doing so. Lead us not into temptation is the prayer that the Lord taught us but we ourselves must recognise disputing as a bait that can lead us not even only to temptation but to sin. If we are not careful we enter into this situation.

These are some of the sins that can follow

1. **Anger:** anger is not usually far-fetched from where there is disputing, when people argue, it can get the both of them angry towards each other because one will not want to surrender to the other. It is usually impossible to bring a person to the knowledge of a particular truth under intense argument and once anger sets in it will lead to bitterness.

2. **Strife:** disputing can lead to bitter violence, conflicts or dissension. This is why we must avoid it at all cost for it will lead us into deeper sins**. James 3:16 KJV** For where envying and strife is, there is confusion and every evil work. This can even be in the church among ministers of God. As children of God we must avoid all evil works, for evil is not to be heard among us.

Assuming some couples learn how to avoid disputes, they will not become violent to each other to the point of beating each other up. **Philippians 2:3 KJV** Let nothing be done through strife

or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves. When the other is in the mood of disputes, remain silent.

3. **Bitterness:** the moment one is involved in disputing, then bitterness which means the exhibiting of intense animosity would come to mind, then one becomes distasteful and distressing towards the other person. It can be between husband and wife or between brothers and sisters, it can even be at one's work place this would lead to harshly approach towards situations that should be settled amicably on a normal ground. It can make a person nurse bitterness for the other person for years.

4. **Shouting:** this is a sin many people are not aware of. The moment we find ourselves disputing we would begin to shout and this is counted as a sin. Ephesians 4:31 KJV Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and CLAMOUR, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice: we must put away all clamor that is to say shouting for the Lord is not pleased. There are some women who love shouting at home which has made everyone in the neighborhood tired of them. The word of God talks about this saying it's a foolish woman that does so. **Proverbs 9:13 KJV** A foolish woman is clamorous: she is simple, and knoweth nothing.

How To Avoid Disputing

1. Be born again: It is only a person who is saved that can have control over his flesh because disputing is part of the characteristics of the flesh. **John 3:3 KJV** Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.

2. Exhibit the fruit of the spirit: when the fruit of the spirit is seriously at work in the life of a Christian he will be patient and have self-control, he will not get annoyed easily no matter what people say. **Galatians 5:22-23 KJV** But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, [23] Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.

3. Try to be calm always: many find this difficult to do, maintaining calmness is something we must all learn to do. In the face of serious opposition we should not be moved but remain calm and gentle as a dove when talking. **Matthew 11:29 KJV** Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls.

4. Learn to keep silent: silence is a very powerful tool for those who know how to use it. When you observe that disputing can arise, try to keep total silence, although you might be tempted to talk, don't fall into the temptation because silence can never be misunderstood or misinterpreted in such instances. Many women would have saved themselves of being beaten up by their husbands only if they had learned how to keep silent. Many men wouldn't have turned themselves into beast that beat their wives only if they have learned to maintain calmness. **1 Thessalonians 4:11 KJV** And that ye study to be quiet, and to do your own business, and to work with your own hands, as we commanded you;

5. Put yourself in prayers always: pray always that the Lord should help you to do away with murmurs and disputes if you realize that you find it hard to stop.

In conclusion, you can see the adverse effects of murmuring and disputing you must try as much as possible to see that you are not caught in the web, let Thanksgiving fill your heart and your mouth, also flee from everything that would want to lead you

into contention, disputing, strife and all other sins as saints who are preparing for the kingdom of God.

Invitation

If you know that you are still living in sin and you are ready to repent and begin to live your life in strict obedience to God so that you can overcome every sin in your life to make heaven. Please place your right hand on your chest and say this prayer with your mouth.

Say,

Lord Jesus, I accept You as my personal Lord and Saviour, I believe that You died for me and took away my sins so that I will not face the penalty of them. I surrender my life to You today and I make a decision to obey and follow You, come into my life now, and accept me as Your child. Thank You for saving me, in Jesus Christ's name I pray, Amen.

Congratulations, now you are saved. If you prayed this short prayer please WhatsApp +2347067511039, and tell me that you just got saved. I want to have a word with you. God bless you!

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