

DEVOTION FOUR

GRUMBLING IS NOT AN OPTION.

KEY SCRIPTURE (PHILIPPIANS CHAP 2: 14-16) “Do everything without grumbling or arguing, so that you may become blameless and pure, ‘children of God without fault in a warped and crooked generation.’ Then you will shine among them like stars in the sky as you hold firmly to the word of life. And then I will be able to boast on the day of Christ that I did not run or labour in vain.”

We often grumble about things that may not go our way. Maybe we didn't get the grade we wanted on a test, or we didn't make the sports team we tried out for. It's easy to get caught up in our frustrations and forget about all the good things we have in our lives, more than that, to forget about our most precious gift: Jesus. Paul encourages the Philippian Church to conduct ourselves ‘in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ’ (Philippians 1:27). This means putting faith in practice and intentionally obeying God. One way to do this, Paul is encouraging, is to do everything ‘without grumbling or arguing (2:14). Paul means *everything* in *every* situation, even in hardship. When we grumble, we are showing a lack of trust in God. How can we find the strength to never grumble? In verse 16, Paul tells the Philippians to *hold firmly* to the word of life.

This implies effort and attention. Grumbling won't disappear with a vague flapping effort. We must hold tighter to God's truth than our discontentment. Turn our grumbling into prayer, making our requests known to God. We must hold our tongues and follow Christ's example. We can make a conscious decision to take our heart to God. Not to grumble before him but to ask him to change us and to tell him our frustrations and sadness.

REFLECT: What am I unhappy about and finding I'm grumbling about at the moment? Are there specific areas? Times?

PRAY: Bring your heart to God. If you have sadness, anger, or disappointment, bring it before him. Ask him to help you to live each day without grumbling but to remember all he has done, and by doing so, be a blessing to those around you and glorify God.