

The Human Tendency to Complain

"In **everything** give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you." 1 Thessalonians 5:18

It matters not how blessed you are, your tendency will always be to dwell on what you do not have or do not like. This is a fundamental flaw in human character and an indication of his depravity. Someone said, "You can always tell where a soldier is by his complaints. If he complains because air support is inadequate, he is running low on ammunition, and the medic is slow getting to his wounded buddy, you know where he is. Likewise, if he complains because the food is cold, the beer is warm, and the mosquitoes are thick, you also know where he is."

This is true for all people. You may not complain to others, for most are not interested in your complaints, **but you tend to mentally dwell on what you lack rather than the opposite**. If you were asked, "All things being equal, with whom in the world would you trade places?" you would probably respond, "With no one." Nevertheless, this propensity remains true. In light of this, two observations:

1) - **Gratitude is a critical component in a person's relationship with God**. As the Apostle Paul observed, "...because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened."¹

2) - **Make it a habit to regularly give thanks to God "in everything" – even your pain**. To thank Him when you do not feel like it, is what I think the Bible means when it teaches, "By him therefore let us offer the **sacrifice of praise** to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to his name."²

¹Romans 1:21 ²Hebrews 13:15