

## Spend more time counting your blessings

Around one month after leaving Egypt, the Israelites were complaining. Their complaining was so bad, they made the statement that they would have been better off if they had remained Egyptian slaves. So soon, they had forgotten the anguish they faced in Egypt. They only remembered the food they had. They had forgotten the Mighty Hand of God that delivered them on eagle's wings while destroying their enemy at the Red Sea. They could only think about right here, right now.

I find it strange that the Israelites were complaining about one blessing while asking for another one. Their ability to complain was head and shoulders above complainers. Look at some of the things they complain about:

- Exodus 15:24: The Israelites complained over a lack of water.
- Exodus 16:2: They complained over a lack of food.
- Exodus 17: They complained again over the lack of water.
- Numbers 12: Miriam and Aaron complained about the nationality of Moses' wife when in reality they wanted an equal leadership position with Moses.
- Numbers 14: Ten of the twelve spies declared they cannot take the Promised Land. The children of Israel complained against Moses and Aaron and wanted to appoint a new leader to return them to Egypt.
- Numbers 16: Korah, Dathan, and Abiram complained against Moses' leadership and Aaron's priesthood. The Israelites complained against Aaron and Moses after the death of Korah, Dathan, and Abiram, and all their families when these men questioned Moses' authority and Aaron's priesthood.
- Numbers 20: The Israelites complained against Moses for the lack of fruits and water. The constant complaints of the Israelites caused Moses to lose patience with them, which prohibited him from entering the Promised Land as well.

We criticize the Israelites for complaining but don't we do the same thing? There are blessings all around us every day, yet it's so easy to find something to complain about. I challenge you to remember the following to stay focused on blessings:

- Keep your priorities in order. God first.
- Recognize daily blessings from God.
- Understand that ingratitude is a betrayal of the goodness of God.
- Get rid of the idea that you are entitled to something.
- Be looking for the opportunity to reach out to someone less fortunate than you are.
- Realize that your life situation is better than someone else's.

Concentrating on your daily blessings causes us to realize how thankful we are to God.

Remember, in all the blessings we receive from God, He owes us nothing.