

Grumbling vs. Groaning

Pastor Greg Mitchell

Grumbling

You grumbled in your tents & said, "The LORD hates us." Deuteronomy 1:26

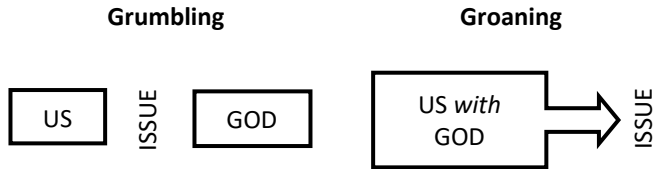
Groaning

The Israelites groaned in their slavery and cried out... God heard their groaning and he remembered his covenant. Exodus 2:23-24

We... groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption to sonship, the redemption of our bodies. Romans 8:23

Grumbling divides. Groaning believes:

For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord. Romans 8:38-39



Issues divide us when they are conditions for relationship.

But, when we groan, God joins us there.

The Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for/with us through wordless groans. Romans 8:26

When we turn from grumbling to groaning, we join with the Spirit in furthering God's will.

Let's Talk About It

When we turn from grumbling to groaning, we join the Spirit in God's work in our lives. Jesus said that in this world we will have trouble (John 16:33), so the question isn't whether we'll face hardship, but how we'll respond to it. The Israelites often responded with grumbling (Deut. 1:26)—complaining against God out of mistrust and ingratitude. Grumbling keeps our focus on what feels unfair and can distance us from God. Groaning, however, is an honest cry that turns toward God in humility and faith. When we bring our struggles to Him, the Spirit meets us in our weakness and intercedes for us, working even difficult circumstances for good. God invites us to bring our cries to God rather than letting them push us away from Him.

Romans 8:23-26, 38-39; Philippians 2:14; Deuteronomy 1:26; Exodus 2:23-24

Discussion questions:

- Which part of the message impacted or challenged you?
- Read Romans 8:23-26 and Philippians 2:14. Applying this **TRUTH**, contrast grumbling and groaning. How can we tell when we are doing which?
- Freedom Weekend is an opportunity to dig deeper in practicing *truth, repentance and faith*. If you've been to Freedom Weekend, describe how you learned to walk this out. If you haven't been, you can register for our upcoming Freedom Weekend on Saturday, April 25.
- **REPENTANCE** – Why is grumbling easier than groaning? Why would we choose to groan instead?
- Read Romans 8:38-39. Using **FAITH**, what does this scripture promise us? What is the Spirit groaning for? How can we join Him in that?
- Discuss a present struggle and what it looks like to re-position it from an issue that divides you from God and others to a place in which you prayerfully long for "God's Kingdom to come, His will to be done..."

Take a Step

When you face a challenge this week, pause before reacting and bring it honestly to God in prayer. Instead of grumbling about the situation, practice **groaning**—turning toward God with humility and trust. Ask the Holy Spirit to help you see where God may be at work and to deepen your faith in the middle of the challenge.

Here's My Prayer

Father, thank You that You meet me in my weakness. Forgive me for the times I grumble instead of bringing my struggles to You. Teach me to turn toward You with honesty and faith. Holy Spirit, help me trust that You are working even in difficult circumstances. Form Christ in me and fill me with Your peace as I walk through every challenge with You. In Jesus' name, amen.