

## “Crying Out to God: In Brokenness or Contempt?”

Pastor Paul Taylor/March 7, 2010

God's Word to the Nations Translation

**How we truly feel and believe about God comes out when we are under pressure.**

**1Co 10:10-11, (10)**, Don't complain as some of them did. The angel of death destroyed them. **(11)** These things happened to make them an example for others. These things were written down as a warning for us who are living in the closing days of history.

**Why is God warning us about complaining?** Can't we tell God how we feel, about what's bothering us, about injustice?

- **Psalms 142:1b-5**, (by David when he was in the cave; a prayer). Loudly, I cry to the LORD. Loudly, I plead with the LORD for mercy. **(2)** I pour out my complaints in his presence and tell him my troubles. **(3)** When I begin to lose hope, you already know what I am experiencing. My enemies have hidden a trap for me on the path where I walk. **(4)** Look to my right and see that no one notices me. Escape is impossible for me. No one cares about me. **(5)** I call out to you, O LORD. I say, "You are my refuge, my own inheritance in this world of the living."
- **Exo 17:7**, He named that place Massah [Testing] and Meribah [Complaining] because the Israelites complained and because they tested the LORD, asking, "Is the LORD with us or not?"

**10 men spied out the land; only 2 good reports. Numbers 14:1-5** Then all the people in the Israelite community raised their voices and cried out loud all that night. **(2)** They complained to Moses and Aaron, "If only we had died in Egypt or this desert! **(3)** Why is the LORD bringing us to this land-just to have us die in battle? Our wives and children will be taken as prisoners of war! Wouldn't it be better for us to go back to Egypt?" **(4)** *They said to each other, "Let's choose a leader and go back to Egypt."* **(5)** Immediately, Moses and Aaron bowed with their faces touching the ground in front of the whole community of Israel assembled there. **(6)** At the same time, two of those who had explored the land, Joshua (son of Nun) and Caleb (son of Jephunneh), tore their clothes in despair. **(7)** They said to the whole community of Israel, "The land we explored is very good. **(8)** *If the LORD is pleased with us, he will bring us into this land and give it to us.* This is a land flowing with milk and honey! **(9)** *Don't rebel against the LORD, and don't be afraid of the people of the land. We will devour them like bread. They have no protection, and the LORD is with us. So don't be afraid of them.*" **(10)** But when the whole community of Israel talked about stoning Moses and Aaron to death, they all saw the glory of the LORD shining at the tent of meeting. **(11)** The LORD said to Moses, "How long will these people treat me with contempt? How long will they **refuse to trust me** in spite of all the miraculous signs I have done among them?"

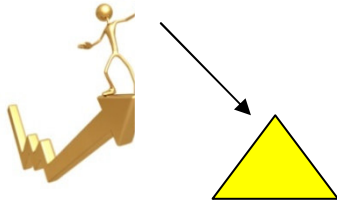
**Numbers 14:18-24, (18)** 'The LORD...patient, forever loving....He forgives wrongdoing and disobedience....He never lets the guilty go unpunished, punishing children...for their parents' sins to the third and fourth generation....' **(19)** By your great love, please forgive these people's sins, as you have been forgiving them from the time they left Egypt until now." **(20)** The LORD said, "I forgive them, as you have asked. **(21)** But as I live and as the glory of the LORD fills the whole earth, I solemnly swear that **(22)** none of the people who saw my glory and the miraculous signs I did in Egypt and in the desert will see the land which I promised their ancestors. They have tested me now ten times and refused to obey me. **(23)** None of those who treat me with contempt will see it! **(24)** But because my servant Caleb has a different attitude and has wholeheartedly followed me, I'll bring him to the land he already explored. His descendants will possess it.

**A closer look at the word “contempt”:** the King James uses the word “provoke”, Hebrew root word here is na-ats, which means to **scorn**; associated with blaspheme, condemn, provoke. Other translations render this word as: reject me, despise me, provoke me, or contempt-*a powerful feeling of dislike toward somebody or something considered to be worthless, inferior, or undeserving of respect.* Contempt is always based in pride.

- **Exo 17:7**, He named that place Massah [Testing] and Meribah [Complaining] because the Israelites complained and because they tested the LORD, asking, "Is the LORD with us or not?"
- **The implication is that the Israelites tested God**, found him lacking, so they rejected him-quit trusting him.
- **Exo 20:5-6**, Never worship them or serve them, because I, the LORD your God, am a God who does not tolerate rivals. *I punish children for their parents' sins to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me.* **(6)** *But I show mercy to thousands of generations of those who love me and obey my commandments.*

### Why doesn't God tolerate being treated with contempt by His people?

- Bottom line; it is a lie and we are standing in judgment on God himself. In pride, this belief rejects God and the next step is idolatry.



- **Before any sin can occur, first comes contempt for the one we are going to sin against.** We will despise them in our hearts. It starts with devaluing, then comes despising, which gives the ability to rationalize why we can sin against them.
- **Satan wants us to apply the same principle of devaluing-onto God.**
- **John the Baptist was offended by Jesus.** **Mat 11:6** Blessed is the man who does not fall away on account of me."

### Crying out in brokenness brings compassion;

- **Brokenness says I have no other hope besides you God.** We humble ourselves before God and refuse to take offense at Him. I don't understand-but I know you are good; I believe you love me.

### As Christians we are supposed cry out and pour out our complaints to him.

 King David shows us how it is done...

- **Psalms 142:1b-5**, (by David when he was in the cave; a prayer). Loudly, I cry to the LORD. Loudly, I plead with the LORD for mercy. (2) I pour out my complaints in his presence and tell him my troubles. (3) When I begin to lose hope, you already know what I am experiencing. My enemies have hidden a trap for me on the path where I walk. (4) Look to my right and see that no one notices me. Escape is impossible for me. No one cares about me. (5) I call out to you, O LORD. I say, "You are my refuge, my own inheritance in this world of the living."
- **1 Peter 5:7**, Turn all your anxiety over to God because he cares for you.
- **Philippians 4:6-7**, Never worry about anything. But in every situation let God know what you need in prayers and requests while giving thanks. (7) Then God's peace, which goes beyond anything we can imagine, will guard your thoughts and emotions through Christ Jesus.

**Worship and thanksgiving**-are two of the greatest antidotes God has given us for anxiety and fear