



## CELL GUIDE

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<b>TOPIC</b>	The Graves of Cravings – Numbers 11 (Part 1 of 2)	<b>SPEAKER</b>	Elder DSP Edric Sng
<b>THEME</b>	Spiritual Sight or Blindness	<b>DATE</b>	16 & 17 Feb 2019

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# MESSAGE SUMMARY

## ALWAYS COMPLAINING

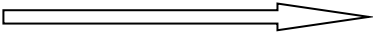
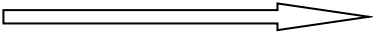
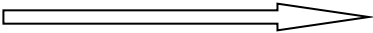
Since the days of our biblical past, the people of Israel have already been a complaining hoard. Elder DSP Edric talks about the causes and consequences of constant complaining, using the Israelites as an example in Numbers 11.

When the Israelites complained about their jobs, God called Moses to lead them out of slavery. When God blessed them with the daily miracle of manna, they complained that it was not good enough. Moses was dejected and hurt when they started to complain about his leadership. Despite multiple warnings from the Lord, they walked straight into their own graves of cravings.

## A POSTURE SHIFT

**Discontentment** is the root cause of our complaints. It arises from a spirit of dissatisfaction. We need to intentionally change our posture from discontentment to contentment, in order to avoid the graves of our cravings that our forefathers, the Israelites, fell into.

### A posture shift

<b>From being...</b>		<b>To being...</b>
Unsatisfied		Satisfied
Unrealistic		Realistic
Unappreciative		Appreciative

When we grumble, we open the doorway for the destroyer to come into our lives (1 Cor 10:10). Being in leadership and service to others is tough, because leaders often face discouragement through the grumbings of the people they serve. As illustrated in Numbers 11:10-15, like Moses, leaders today are often over-burdened and hurt by the needs of the people.

Elder DSP Edric beseeched us to obey the command in Heb 13:17 to "obey your leaders and submit to them, for they are keeping watch over your souls, as those who will have to give an account. Let

them do this with joy and not with groaning, for that would be of no advantage to you."

**Contentment** is being thankful for what we have and not having what we want. We are satisfied when we learn to be contented (Phil 4:12-13). Instead of craving after our ungodly desires, we crave Jesus.

By putting 2 Cor 4:17-18 in perspective, we realize that most of the things we complain about are temporary and will come to pass. We should not let it distract us from things that would lead us to achieve eternal glory.

*"Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." Phil 4:6-7 (NIV)*

Often, we may fail to experience the peace of God even after praying. This could be because we failed to give thanks first, as mentioned in Phil 4:6. Being appreciative is to develop an attitude of gratitude towards all that the Lord has done for us.

## CONCLUSION

Contentment is about being thankful for what we have. Let us focus on what God has already given to us. We are thankful for salvation through what Jesus has done for us and for daily manna from God in heaven, which is a miracle of His blessings in our lives. It is only when we intentionally adopt a posture of being satisfied, realistic, and appreciative, that we avoid walking into the graves of our cravings.

# QUESTIONS

1. What does the speaker tell us about the causes of complaining? Which one, in particular, rings true for you?

2. What area in your life do you recently complain about the most? How is your complaining affecting your life?

3. What are some steps you can take to address the complaining spirit in that particular area of your life?