

A Thankful Heart (July 21, 2019 by Sister N. Carmen Soto)

Discontentment is a feeling that can cause us to perform incorrect actions. Discontentment can confuse us in such a way that we lose our perspective on reality, and in this process, instead of seeing, enjoying, and being thankful for what we have, we begin to complain about what we don't have. We even get to the place where we think we have the right to this or that thing!

This discontentment, as it grows, is accompanied by anger that blinds us more and more until we lose control of what we are doing and saying.

Who gives you life, health, your abilities, everything that you are? If our answer is sincere, we will say, "God." He has total care of our lives, and at the appropriate moment, He will make what we need arrive to our lives in the correct amount for our benefit.

To control our emotions, we need to seek the Lord in prayer and wait on Him.

Scripture: Exodus 16:4-15

⁴ Then the LORD said to Moses, "Behold, I will rain bread from heaven for you. And the people shall go out and gather ^[a] a certain quota every day, that I may test them, whether they will walk in My law or not. ⁵ And it shall be on the sixth day that they shall prepare what they bring in, and it shall be twice as much as they gather daily."

⁶ Then Moses and Aaron said to all the children of Israel, "At evening you shall know that the LORD has brought you out of the land of Egypt. ⁷ And in the morning you shall see the glory of the LORD; for He hears your complaints against the LORD. But what *are* we, that you complain against us?" ⁸ Also Moses said, "*This shall be seen* when the LORD gives you meat to eat in the evening, and in the morning bread to the full; for the LORD hears your complaints which you make against Him. And what *are* we? Your complaints *are* not against us but against the LORD."

⁹ Then Moses spoke to Aaron, "Say to all the congregation of the children of Israel, 'Come near before the LORD, for He has heard your complaints.'

" ¹⁰ Now it came to pass, as Aaron spoke to the whole congregation of the

children of Israel, that they looked toward the wilderness, and behold, the glory of the LORD appeared in the cloud.

¹¹ And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, ¹² “I have heard the complaints of the children of Israel. Speak to them, saying, ‘At twilight you shall eat meat, and in the morning you shall be filled with bread. And you shall know that I *am* the LORD your God.’ ”

¹³ So it was that quail came up at evening and covered the camp, and in the morning the dew lay all around the camp. ¹⁴ And when the layer of dew lifted, there, on the surface of the wilderness, was a small round substance, as fine as frost on the ground. ¹⁵ So when the children of Israel saw *it*, they said to one another, “What is it?” For they did not know what it was.

And Moses said to them, “This *is* the bread which the LORD has given you to eat.

Be careful, brothers and sisters, with what we say and how we say things. Let us not attribute to God actions for which He is not responsible. Let us not say that He has you in a certain situation when we know that He only seeks our good, that what is happening to us is only the product of our actions.

Scripture: Numbers 14:20-32

²⁰ Then the LORD said: “I have pardoned, according to your word; ²¹ but truly, as I live, all the earth shall be filled with the glory of the LORD— ²² because all these men who have seen My glory and the signs which I did in Egypt and in the wilderness, and have put Me to the test now these ten times, and have not heeded My voice, ²³ they certainly shall not see the land of which I [\[a\]](#)swore to their fathers, nor shall any of those who rejected Me see it. ²⁴ But My servant Caleb, because he has a different spirit in him and has followed Me fully, I will bring into the land where he went, and his descendants shall inherit it. ²⁵ Now the Amalekites and the Canaanites dwell in the valley; tomorrow turn and move out into the wilderness by the Way of the Red Sea.”

Death Sentence on the Rebels

²⁶ And the LORD spoke to Moses and Aaron, saying, ²⁷ “How long *shall I bear with* this evil congregation who complain against Me? I have heard the

complaints which the children of Israel make against Me. ²⁸ Say to them, 'As I live,' says the LORD, 'just as you have spoken in My hearing, so I will do to you: ²⁹ The carcasses of you who have complained against Me shall fall in this wilderness, all of you who were numbered, according to your entire number, from twenty years old and above. ³⁰ Except for Caleb the son of Jephunneh and Joshua the son of Nun, you shall by no means enter the land which I ^[b]swore I would make you dwell in. ³¹ But your little ones, whom you said would be victims, I will bring in, and they shall ^[c]know the land which you have despised. ³² But *as for* you, your^[d] carcasses shall fall in this wilderness.

The difference between complaining and talking to God can be seen in the results. Being God, the King of Kings allows us to come to Him and talk to Him with all sincerity. We can tell God when something bothers us. We can give Him arguments, but at the end of the conversation, we should accept His answer and His Will. When we complain with friends, family, and others, God hears us, but it does not please Him.

Brothers and sisters, let us be careful not to say that we were better off we knew God. Let us be very careful not to desire things that made you feel good for a few moments but then made you worse off afterwards. Let us not complain about the things that we can't have or do. Do you think that you can face the wrath of God and get off scot free? Do you think that God is not hearing when you curse and throw tantrums because you desire something from your past life? Recognize that God is in the midst of us with His arms open and His ears ready to listen to what we have to say to Him.

Scripture: Numbers 11:10-20

¹⁰ Then Moses heard the people weeping throughout their families, everyone at the door of his tent; and the anger of the LORD was greatly aroused; Moses also was displeased. ¹¹ So Moses said to the LORD, "Why have You afflicted Your servant? And why have I not found favor in Your sight, that You have laid the ^[a]burden of all these people on me? ¹² Did I conceive all these people? Did I beget them, that You should say to me, 'Carry them in your bosom, as a guardian carries a nursing child,' to the land which You swore^[b] to their fathers? ¹³ Where am I to get meat to give to all these people? For they weep all over me, saying, 'Give us meat, that we may eat.' ¹⁴ I am not able to bear all these people alone, because the

burden *is* too heavy for me. ¹⁵ If You treat me like this, please kill me here and now—if I have found favor in Your sight—and do not let me see my wretchedness!”

The Seventy Elders

¹⁶ So the LORD said to Moses: “Gather to Me seventy men of the elders of Israel, whom you know to be the elders of the people and officers over them; bring them to the tabernacle of meeting, that they may stand there with you. ¹⁷ Then I will come down and talk with you there. I will take of the Spirit that *is* upon you and will put *the same* upon them; and they shall bear the burden of the people with you, that you may not bear *it* yourself alone. ¹⁸ Then you shall say to the people, ^[c]‘Consecrate yourselves for tomorrow, and you shall eat meat; for you have wept in the hearing of the LORD, saying, “Who will give us meat to eat? For *it was* well with us in Egypt.” Therefore the LORD will give you meat, and you shall eat. ¹⁹ You shall eat, not one day, nor two days, nor five days, nor ten days, nor twenty days, ²⁰ but *for* a whole month, until it comes out of your nostrils and becomes loathsome to you, because you have despised the LORD who is among you, and have wept before Him, saying, “Why did we ever come up out of Egypt?” ’ ”

There is something very important that comes from the hand of a thankful heart: repentance and obedience.

Scripture: Deuteronomy 30:1-20

“Now it shall come to pass, when all these things come upon you, the blessing and the curse which I have set before you, and you ^[a]call *them* to mind among all the nations where the LORD your God drives you, ² and you return to the LORD your God and obey His voice, according to all that I command you today, you and your children, with all your heart and with all your soul, ³ that the LORD your God will bring you back from captivity, and have compassion on you, and gather you again from all the nations where the LORD your God has scattered you. ⁴ If *any* of you are driven out to the farthest *parts* under heaven, from there the LORD your God will gather you, and from there He will bring you. ⁵ Then the LORD your God will bring you to the land which your fathers possessed, and you shall possess it. He will prosper you and multiply you more than your fathers. ⁶ And the LORD your God will circumcise your heart and the heart of your descendants, to love

the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul, that you may live.

⁷ “Also the LORD your God will put all these curses on your enemies and on those who hate you, who persecuted you. ⁸ And you will again obey the voice of the LORD and do all His commandments which I command you today. ⁹ The LORD your God will make you abound in all the work of your hand, in the ^[b]fruit of your body, in the increase of your livestock, and in the produce of your land for good. For the LORD will again rejoice over you for good as He rejoiced over your fathers, ¹⁰ if you obey the voice of the LORD your God, to keep His commandments and His statutes which are written in this Book of the Law, *and* if you turn to the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul.

The Choice of Life or Death

¹¹ “For this commandment which I command you today *is* ^[c]not *too* mysterious for you, nor *is* it far off. ¹² It *is* not in heaven, that you should say, ‘Who will ascend into heaven for us and bring it to us, that we may hear it and do it?’ ¹³ Nor *is* it beyond the sea, that you should say, ‘Who will go over the sea for us and bring it to us, that we may hear it and do it?’ ¹⁴ But the word *is* very near you, in your mouth and in your heart, that you may do it.

¹⁵ “See, I have set before you today life and good, death and evil, ¹⁶ in that I command you today to love the LORD your God, to walk in His ways, and to keep His commandments, His statutes, and His judgments, that you may live and multiply; and the LORD your God will bless you in the land which you go to possess. ¹⁷ But if your heart turns away so that you do not hear, and are drawn away, and worship other gods and serve them, ¹⁸ I announce to you today that you shall surely perish; you shall not prolong *your* days in the land which you cross over the Jordan to go in and possess. ¹⁹ I call heaven and earth as witnesses today against you, *that* I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing; therefore choose life, that both you and your descendants may live; ²⁰ that you may love the LORD your God, that you may obey His voice, and that you may cling to Him, for He *is* your life and the length of your days; and that you may dwell in the land which the LORD swore to your fathers, to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, to give them.”