

Do all things without grumbling or disputing, that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, holding fast to the word of life, so that in the day of Christ I may be proud that I did not run in vain or labor in vain. Philippians 2:14-16 (ESV)

Shine Brightly

Do you want to shine as a bright light in the world for me? Do you want people to be drawn to you? Would you like the opportunity to hold out the word of life to those who do not know me? Would you like to bear fruit for my kingdom and bring glory to my name? Yes, to all the above. I want to shine like a bright light in the world so that people will be drawn to you. I want them to see that you are living in and through my life. I want to bring attention to you. I want to bring glory to your name. Yes, I want to bear an abundance of fruit for your kingdom. I don't want my life to be about anything less than that. I want my life to have counted for all eternity. I do not want to someday find out that I lived my life in vain. I want you to lead me. I want you to guide me. I want you to use me to accomplish your purposes and fulfill your plans. **That's what I knew you would say. That is what I am glad to hear you say.** I'm glad this subject has been exhausted. Your questions and been asked and answered. **Not yet. Not quite. Not so fast. We have more to talk about.** Like what?

There is a major threat to your life being a bright witness for me in the world. There is something that you need to think about deeply. What's that? **You like to argue. You like to complain.** That would be true. I have made arguing and complaining something close to a hobby of mine. **If you want to shine brightly in the world for me that will need to stop.** Why is that? **You've seen plenty of arguers and complainers.** Yes, I have. **So, you would say that arguing and complaining is common place in the world?** Yes, I would. **How attractive are the people that argue and complain? How interested are you in being in the company of someone who is constantly arguing and complaining?** I see where this headed. **Tell me where this is headed.** Arguing and complaining will tarnish and diminish my witness for you in the world. Arguing and complaining will make it impossible for me to bear fruit for your kingdom and bring glory to your name. **That's right. You got it. Will you stop arguing and complaining so you can hold out the word of life to others who do not know me?** Yes Lord, I will. **That will be very good. That is how I want to use you.**

Lord, I have done plenty of arguing and complaining. I never gave it any thought that all my arguing and complaining might tarnish or diminish my witness for you in the world. Forgive me. Help me now, to hold out the word of life to those who do not know you. Amen

Gratitude *Without Complaining*

Do everything without complaining or arguing, so that you may become blameless and pure, children of God without fault in a crooked and depraved generation, in which you shine like stars in the universe as you hold out the word of life—in order that I may boast on the day of Christ that I did not run or labor for nothing.

NIV Philippians 2:14-16

Gratitude *Without Complaining*

Do everything without complaining and arguing, so that no one can criticize you. Live clean, innocent lives as children of God, shining like bright lights in a world full of crooked and perverse people. Hold firmly to the word of life; then, on the day of Christ's return, I will be proud that I did not run the race in vain and that my work was not useless.

NLT Philippians 2:14-16

Gratitude *Without Murmuring*

Do all things without murmuring and arguing, so that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, in which you shine like stars in the world. It is by your holding fast to the word of life that I can boast on the day of Christ that I did not run in vain or labor in vain.

NRSV Philippians 2:14-16

Gratitude *Without Grumbling*

Do all things without grumbling and faultfinding and complaining [against God] and questioning and doubting [among yourselves], That you may show yourselves to be blameless and guileless, innocent and uncontaminated, children of God without blemish (faultless, unrebukable) in the midst of a crooked and wicked generation [spiritually perverted and perverse], among whom you are seen as bright lights (stars or beacons shining out clearly) in the [dark] world, Holding out [to it] and offering [to all men] the Word of Life, so that in the day of Christ I may have something of which exultantly to rejoice and glory in that I did not run my race in vain or spend my labor to no purpose.

AMP Philippians 2:14-16

Gratitude *Without Grumbling*

Do all things without grumbling or disputing; so that you will prove yourselves to be blameless and innocent, children of God above reproach in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you appear as lights in the world, holding fast the word of life, so that in the day of Christ I will have reason to glory because I did not run in vain nor toil in vain.

NASB Philippians 2:14-16

Gratitude *Without Grumbling*

Do all things without grumbling or disputing, that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, holding fast to the word of life, so that in the day of Christ I may be proud that I did not run in vain or labor in vain.

ESV Philippians 2:14-16

Gratitude *Without Complaining*

Do all things without complaining and disputing, that you may become blameless and harmless, children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, holding fast the word of life, so that I may rejoice in the day of Christ that I have not run in vain or labored in vain.

NKJV Philippians 2:14-16

Gratitude *No Bickering, No Second-Guessing Allowed*

Do everything readily and cheerfully—no bickering, no second-guessing allowed! Go out into the world uncorrupted, a breath of fresh air in this squalid and polluted society. Provide people with a glimpse of good living and of the living God. Carry the light-giving Message into the night so I'll have good cause to be proud of you on the day that Christ returns. You'll be living proof that I didn't go to all this work for nothing.

MSG Philippians 2:14-16

Gratitude *Stay Away Complaining*

In everything you do, stay away from complaining and arguing so that no one can speak a word of blame against you. You are to live clean, innocent lives as children of God in a dark world full of people who are crooked and stubborn. Shine out among them like beacon lights, holding out to them the Word of Life. Then when Christ returns, how glad I will be that my work among you was so worthwhile.

TLB Philippians 2:14-16

Gratitude *Without Complaining*

Do everything without complaining or arguing. Then you will be innocent and without any wrong. You will be God's children without fault. But you are living with crooked and mean people all around you, among whom you shine like stars in the dark world. You offer the teaching that gives life. So when Christ comes again, I can be happy because my work was not wasted. I ran the race and won.

NCV Philippians 2:14-16

Without Complaining

Year _____ Week _____ Day _____ Date _____

Gratitude – Philippians 2:14-16

In Context: *Read Philippians 2*

Begin With Prayer:

Here I am Lord. I Am Listening.

Meditating On God’s Word: ***(What is God speaking to your heart?)***

Do everything without complaining or arguing, so that you may become blameless and pure, children of God without fault in a crooked and depraved generation, in which you shine like stars in the universe as you hold out the word of life--in order that I may boast on the day of Christ that I did not run or labor for nothing. Philippians 2:14-16

Considering The Words: ***(What words speak to your heart?)***

Do everything | without complaining | or arguing, | so that | you may | become blameless | and | pure, | children of God | without fault | in a crooked | and | depraved generation, | in which | you shine | like stars | in the universe | as you | hold out | the word of life |-- in order that | I may boast | on the day | of Christ | that I | did not | run | or | labor | for nothing. Philippians 2:14-16

Praying The Scripture: ***(What prayer from your heart will you write?)***

Lord, I have done plenty of arguing and complaining. I never gave it any thought that all my arguing and complaining might tarnish or diminish my witness for you in the world. Forgive me. Help me now, to hold out the word of life to those who do not know you. Amen

What It Means: ***(What questions speak to your heart?)*** *(Suggested questions for small group discussion are in bold)*

- How common place is arguing and complaining in daily life in this world?
- When have you stood out as being different because you refused to argue and complain?
- How unattractive is arguing and complaining in daily life in this world?
- When have you allowed arguing and complaining to tarnish or diminish your witness for Christ in the world?
- How much of a threat is arguing and complaining to your being able to bear fruit for the Kingdom of God?**
- When have people been drawn to you because of the brightness of your witness for Christ?**
- When have you been able to hold out the word of life to those who did not know Christ?**

Living It Out: ***(What action step is God guiding your heart to take?)***

Don't allow arguing or complaining to tarnish or diminish the brightness of your witness for Christ in the world.

Seeing It Happen: ***(What are you trusting God for in your heart?)***

Have faith that the Lord will use you as a bright witness for Him in the world.

Get Ready To Share: ***(What can you share with others from your heart?)***

Share with another person or your small group how you are living your life without arguing and complaining.

Close With Prayer: ***Quiet Yourself Before The Lord***

Pause And Offer Prayers Of...

With An Attitude Of Faith Listen To What The Lord Wants To Say To You

- Adoration... _____
- Thanksgiving... _____
- Confession... _____
- Intercession... _____
- Petition... _____

Journal

As You Quiet Yourself Before The Lord

What Do You Want To Say To Me Lord?

What Prayers Are You Praying Today?

Prayer Of Blessing

(What Prayer Of Blessing Can You Pray For Another?)

May you not argue or complain so you can shine brightly as a witness for Christ in the world.

Prayer To Carry

(What Prayer Would You Like To Carry Throughout Your Day?)

Lord, I will not argue or complain so I can shine brightly as a witness for you in the world.

What Do You Want To Remember About Today?

A Question To Ask God

(What Would You Like To Ask God?)

Lord, how can I shine brightly as a witness in the world for you today?
