

The Secret to a Worshipful Life Part 2

“He is considered to be one of the greatest evangelist’s of all time who literally shook two continents for God. It all started one Saturday when a person approached him while he was working at a shoe store and simply said to him, ‘I want to tell you how much Christ loves you.’

He knelt down and was saved. Later he told how he felt. He said, ‘I was in a new world. The birds sang sweeter, the sun shone brighter. I’d never known such peace.’

Soon he started his own Sunday School in an abandoned freight car and then moved into an old vacant saloon. The school became so large that the former Mayor of Chicago gave him the hall over the city’s North Market for his meetings, rent free. Shortly after that, he produced the largest Sunday School in Chicago, reaching some 1,500 kids every week.

Then a dying Sunday School teacher had to return east because of his health and was greatly concerned about the salvation of the girls in his class. So this man rented a carriage for him and the teacher and went to each girl’s home winning them all to Christ.

This so moved him that soul-winning seemed to be the only important thing to do from then on. So he made a vow to tell some person about the Savior each day.

Then another evangelist shared with him, ‘The world has yet to see what God will do with, and for, and through, and in, and by, the man who is fully consecrated to Him.’

This so burned in his soul that when all was said and done, he led as many as 1,000,000 people to Christ. Perhaps the world HAS seen what one man totally consecrated to God can do. His name of course was, Dwight Lyman Moody.”

Now folks, I don’t know about you, but I’d say ol’ **Dwight Moody** had a pretty cool life as a Christian, you know what I’m saying? In fact, so

much so that I'd say **now that** is A Life Worth Living For, amen? But that's right folks, as we've been seeing, **we've got a problem**. You see, even though God's the same God and we're just as much His children as Dwight Moody was, most Christians read the Bible in one hand and take a look at their life in the other and say, "Man, something's missing here. Something doesn't match, something's not right. What's going on? Why do these people like Dwight Moody get to have an amazing walk with Jesus Christ and here I am keep fumbling around in the dark? I don't have a life worth living for. I've got a life worth giving up!" But people of God, I here to tell you, it doesn't have to be that way! Wake up! This is the incredible news. That kind of life, a life worth living for like Dwight Moody had, is available to every to every single Christian!

Therefore, in order to help you and I stop living lives worth giving up and start living lives worth living for, we're going to continue in our series entitled just that, "**A Life Worth Living For**." And what we're doing is taking a look at **four different keys** that I believe are absolutely pivotal if we're ever going to have lives like Dwight Moody had. And we've already seen how the **first key** that unlocks **A Life Worth Living For** is when you and I finally learn **The Secret To A Worshipful Life** not a cry baby whiny complaining life. And there we saw that the **first affect** of complaining is

that **It Affects You** in that it not only **Shrivels the Heart** but unless you get a hold on it real quick it will move to stage two and **Spring Forth Bitterness**. And once you hit there, you just tricked into destroying any chances of have A Life Worth Living For.

But folks, believe it or not, that's not the only harmful affect of complaining. The **second affect** of complaining is that **It Affects Others**. And the **first way Complaining Affects Others** is that it **Turns Others Into Objects of Blame**. But don't take my word for it. Let's listen to God's.

Genesis 3:1-13 “Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, Did God really say, You must not eat from any tree in the garden?”

The woman said to the serpent, We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden, but God did say, You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die.

You will not surely die, the serpent said to the woman. For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.

When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it. Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realized they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves.

Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the LORD God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the LORD God among the trees of the garden. But the LORD God called to the man, Where are you?

He answered, I heard you in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid. And he said, Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree that I commanded you not to eat from?

The man said, The woman you put here with me—she gave me some fruit from the tree, and I ate it. Then the LORD God said to the woman, What is this you have done? The woman said, “The serpent deceived me, and I ate.”

Now folks, according to our text, I think it’s pretty clear. Right after sinning against God, what was the first thing out of the mouths of Adam and

Eve? Was it words of ownership? Was it words of accepting personal responsibility for their actions? Are you kidding! It was words of what?

Words of blame, right? Instead of being responsible for their actions they **complained to God** that it wasn’t their fault that they sinned. No! It was somebody else’s fault, right? And once they turned others into an object of blame and they got **locked into a life of sin!** And the reason why I say that is because, have you ever wondered what would have happened if Adam and Eve would’ve just owned up to their behavior instead of complaining it was somebody else’s fault for their behavior, if the curse of sin would be as bad as it is today? But be that as it may, what **is the same today** is this constant temptation to constant complaining to God that **other people** are responsible for your sinful behavior, instead of owning up to it. And once you do that, you think you’re avoiding the guilt, but you’re not, hello, God sees it all. But

even worse, it tricks you into not having to deal with your sinful behavior and thus you never stop your sinful behavior.

And here's the little game we play. You see, it's much easier to talk or complain about somebody else's problems or even blame them for your problems than it is to deal with your own. Simply put, a person who complains all the time is a person who avoids responsibility all the time. Let me give you some common examples.

For instance, if we don't like our **job** we say, "It's my employer's fault. They don't realize how good of an employee they've got. Everybody else gets a raise but me, and I work harder than all of them put together!" Or, if we don't like our **marriage** we state, "It's my spouse's fault. They used to be loving but now they only think of themselves. They don't meet my needs. How can anyone expect me to put up with this behavior?" Or, if we don't like our **kid's behavior** then it is definitely not our fault. We declare, "Those kids never mind me. I get no respect. I could yell at them until I am blue in the face and they still won't listen to me." And granted, those blaming arguments sound pretty convincing don't they? But just because your blaming sounds logical is still no excuse for taking **personal responsibility** for your situation or actions, like Noah found out.

"The Lord spoke to Noah and said, 'Noah, in six months I am going to make it rain until the whole world is covered with water and all the evil things are

destroyed. But, I want to save a few good people and two of every living thing on the planet. I am ordering you to build an ark.'

'OK,' Noah said, trembling with fear and fumbling with the blueprints, 'I'm your man.' Six months passed, and the Lord looked down and saw Noah sitting in his yard, weeping, and there was no ark.

'Noah!' shouted the Lord, 'where is My ark?' 'Lord, please forgive me!' begged Noah. 'I did my best, but there were some big problems.

First, I had to get a building permit for the ark's construction, but your plans did not meet their code. So, I had to hire an engineer to redo the plans, only to get into a long argument with him about whether to include a fire sprinkler system.'

My neighbors objected, claiming that I was violating zoning ordinances by building the ark in my front yard, so I had to get a variance from the city planning board.' 'Then, I had a big problem getting enough wood for the ark, because there was a ban on cutting trees to save the spotted owl.

I tried to convince the environmentalists and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service that I needed the wood to save the owls, but they wouldn't let me catch them, so no owls.' 'Next, I started gathering up the animals but got sued by an animal rights group that objected to me taking along only two of each kind.'

Just when the suit got dismissed, the EPA notified me that I couldn't complete the ark without filing an environmental impact statement on your proposed flood. Then, the Corps of Engineers wanted a map of the proposed flood plan so I sent them a globe!'

Right now, I'm still trying to resolve a complaint with the Equal Opportunities Commission over how many minorities I'm supposed to hire and the IRS has seized all my assets claiming that I am trying to leave the country.

In fact, I just got a notice from the state that I owe some kind of use tax. Really, I don't think I can finish the ark in less than five years.'

With that, the sky cleared, the sun began to shine, and a rainbow arched across the sky. Noah looked up and smiled. ‘You mean you are not going to destroy the world?’ he asked hopefully.

‘No,’ said the Lord, ‘the government already has.’”

Now does that sound familiar or what? And no I’m not talking just about the harmful affects of the government. Hello, that’s pretty obvious. I’m talking about how we too like Noah there, can come up with all kinds of seemingly logical reasons to blame for all of our problems **on others** and then complain to God why we can’t do this or that. Try as we might, complaining about our situation or actions through so-called logical blaming still boils down to not accepting personal responsibility, **and just like Adam and Eve**, God doesn’t buy it!

And the reason why I think Adam and Eve immediately went headlong into blaming others for their problems instead of personally being responsible for their problem is because when they sinned, **think about it**, it was the first time they developed an “I” problem. When they sinned, they were more concerned about what was best for me, myself, and I instead of God. And people, I’m here to tell you that if “self” is your god then you will whine and complain, and yes, even blame, to avoid personal responsibility, just like Adam and Eve did. And what makes it even harder today is that

“self” worship has become an epidemic not only in our country, but in the Church, even in our music!

Old God-centered Songs

1. I Exalt Thee
2. Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus
3. I Love You Lord
4. Our God is an Awesome God
5. Bless the Lord O My Soul
6. Celebrate Jesus
7. Father I Adore You
8. God is so Good
9. Great and Mighty is He
10. How Great Thou Art
11. I Worship You
12. Lord I Lift Your Name on High
13. Oh Lord You're Beautiful
14. Praise the Name of Jesus
15. Seek Ye First

New Self-centered Songs

- (I Exalt Me)
- (Turn Your Eyes Upon Me)
- (I Love Me Lord)
- (Aren't I Awesome God)
- (Bless Myself O My Soul)
- (Celebrate Me)
- (Father I Adore Myself)
- (I am so Good)
- (Great and Mighty is Me)
- (How Great I Am)
- (I Worship Me)
- (Lord I Lift My Name on High)
- (Oh Lord I'm Beautiful)
- (Praise My Name Jesus)
- (Seek Me First)

Now folks, that list of “self-worship” songs would be funny if what? If it weren't so true. People wake up. Learn the lesson from Adam and Eve. The average person today, yes even in the Church, is more concerned about the little god of me, myself, and I and so we whine and complain, and yes even blame others to avoid personal responsibility, just like Adam and Eve did. And instead of being responsible for our actions we too **complain to God** that it wasn't our fault that we sinned. No! It was somebody else's fault, right? And once we do, we get **locked into a life of sin!** We never take personal responsibility for it and so we never change it!

So what do we do if we are guilty of complaining and turning others into objects of blame by focusing only on me, myself, and I? Well, we simply need to get more concerned about the God of the Bible instead of the god of “self” and start accepting personal responsibility for our situation and actions. And just to make sure we all know what a person who accepts personal responsibility for their actions sounds like, let me give you some examples.

If we do not like our job we say, “Jesus I thank **You** that I even have a job. Lord, remind me that I work for **You** and not man. May I realize that this isn’t just a place of employment but a mission field from **You**.” Or if we don’t like our marriage we state responsibly, “Jesus, I thank **You** for my spouse. I recommit myself to the vows of promise I made before **You** and man. Lord before **You** change my spouse’s heart, please change mine.” And if we don’t like our kid’s behavior we declare, “Jesus I praise **You** that all my kids are a gift from **You**. I take responsibility for their behavior. God, help me to raise them according to **Your** standards and please repair the damage that’s already been done.”

Do you see it? And people, I’m telling you, this is the great news. When we finally stop turning others into objects of blame and accept

personal responsibility for our behavior, we're finally in a position to **change** our behavior.

So how do we know when a person is accepting personal responsibility for their behavior thereby gaining the victory over their sinful behavior? Simple. Their mouths back it up by **not complaining**. They refuse to turn others into objects of blame!

Oh, but that's not all. The **second way Complaining Affects Others** is that it **Leads Others to Do the Same**.

2 Timothy 2:16-17 "But steer clear of these unchristian babblings, which in practice lead further and further away from Christian living. For their teachings are as dangerous as blood-poisoning to the body, and spread like sepsis from a wound."

By the way, for those of you who may not know, sepsis is a formation of pus. Pretty gross huh? Well, it's even worse when we realize that according to our text that complaining can become poison to the Body of Christ. And the reason why I say that is because the word there for "unchristian babblings" literally means "vain and useless talk." And isn't that precisely what complaining is? Exactly! Therefore, the Bible is clear. Complaining is nothing more than "noise **pollution**." It is a complete "waste of time" and "**toxic** talk."

Let's be honest people. Have you ever had to work or live with somebody who complained all the time? Was it fun? Was it something you

looked forward to? Are you kidding! Let's face it. Who wants to be around somebody who complains all the time, right? But here's my point. It wasn't just unpleasant. It was dangerous. If you didn't constantly stay on your guard, what happened? You started to complain didn't you? Their complaining led you to do the same, right? And people, this is no new revelation. The Bible talked about this destructive behavior a long time ago.

Proverbs 21:9 "Better to live on a corner of the roof than share a house with a quarrelsome wife."

Proverbs 19:13 "A foolish son is his father's ruin, and a quarrelsome wife is like a constant dripping."

Now before you married men get too excited and say, "I think the Lord wants me to memorize those two verses," let it be known that they easily apply to both husband and wife. Although, in my house we don't call it nagging. We say that we are merely being a "helpful reminder." In fact, my wife and I don't even argue. Rather, we have just have "intense moments of fellowship." But hello, call it what you will, a constant complainer is not only a constant drip but they're a constant drain. And worse yet, if you're not careful, you'll not only get drained, you'll start doing the same! Do you see the danger? But praise God people, there really is a way to put a stop once and for all to this constant dripping. And it's found in this verse.

Ephesians 4:29 “Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen.”

People of God, according to our text the Bible is clear. As the Body of Christ, we do not want to tear each other down. We want to build each other up. We do not need “noise pollution.” We need “noise edification.” But you might be thinking, “Now wait second. Does that mean I can’t say anything negative?” No, of course not. We need to express our differences and difficulties. However, what we need to do is ask ourselves whether or not we are sharing our differences and difficulties in a **constructive** or **destructive** manner. And how do we know which is which? Well, constructive conversation is one that’s not just sharing information but honestly being open for counsel or correction while working towards a genuine solution. That’s constructive. On the other hand, a destructive conversation could care less about working towards a solution but merely wants to vent anger or frustration. And it’s that kind of conversation that spreads like sepsis from a wound **and has no place in the Body of Christ**. Why? Because it will lead others to do the same and the next thing you know, just like poison it will not only kill a relationship but it will kill a Church!

So what do we do if we are guilty of complaining and leading others to do the same? Well **one**, you need to get right with God, and **two**, you need

to check in for an attitude adjustment. You see, I think one of the main reasons why a person tends to be a constant complainer instead of a constructive builder, is due to them choosing, because it is a choice, to either be an optimist or a pessimist. You see, a pessimist is one who always looks on the negative side of life and therefore constantly dishes out destructive conversation kind of like this guy.

“A man was placed in a monastery and was given the opportunity to say only two words every five years. After the first five passed, he was called in and allowed to say two words.

He said, ‘Food bad.’

Five years later, his two words were ‘Bed hard.’

After a total of fifteen years, he said, ‘I quit.’

The bishops responded, ‘We’re not surprised. You’ve been complaining ever since you got here.’”

Now that guy was a pessimist wasn’t he? However, men aren’t the only ones. Women are just as susceptible, like this lady was.

“There was a lady known as an incurable grumbler who constantly complained about everything.

At last her preacher thought he had found something about which she would be happy, for her farm crop was the finest for miles around.

When he met her, he said with a beaming smile, ‘You must be very pleased, Mary. Everyone is saying how healthy your potatoes look this year.’

In her usual sour manner she replied, ‘True, they’re pretty good, but what am I going to do when I need bad ones to feed the pigs?’”

Now that lady was a pessimist wasn't she? The fact is, that "when you feel dog-tired at night, it may be because you growled all day."⁶ On the other hand though, an optimist has a totally different attitude. They always have a knack for looking on the positive side of life and therefore constantly dishes out constructive conversation, like this guy.

"There was a grumpy diner who was furious when his steak arrived too rare.

'Waiter,' he barked, 'didn't you hear me say 'well done'?'

And the waiter replied, 'I can't thank you enough, sir. I hardly ever get a compliment.'"

Now, I would say that waiter is pretty optimistic, how about you? You see, "the optimist is the kind of person who believes a housefly is looking for a way out." And classic example of optimism is the "70 year old couple who bought some real estate and took out a 30 year loan." But the ultimate optimist has to be "the lady who puts her shoes on when the preacher says, 'And now in conclusion.'" You see, "You can either complain that rose bushes have thorns or you can be glad that thornbushes have roses." It's all in the attitude and yes it's your choice. Just say yes and choose to shut it off! And when you do you'll discover that "things turn out best for the people who make the best of the way things turn out."

So how do know when a person is accepting personal responsibility for their behavior thereby gaining the victory over their sinful behavior? Simple. Their mouths back it up by **not complaining**. They refuse to lead others into doing the same!

People of God, don't you see what's going on here. Not all of our battles are against flesh and blood. There's more going on here than meets the eye. The devil wants you to join him by shaking a fist at God. **How?** By accusing Him saying, "God You're no good. You don't know what you're doing. I know what's right. I know what I need and I'm going to whine and complain until I get it my way! And besides, there's no way to go through life without complaining. It's impossible!" But people, hello, **one** God said to so it is possible, and **two** look at the life of Dwight Moody. Did he have a perfect life? Did things always go his way? Are you kidding! Let's not just look of the fruit. Let's look at the pain.

"He was born on a small New England farm to a father who was an alcoholic. At the age of four, his father suddenly died which not only left his mother a widow, but alone to care for seven children, the oldest being thirteen and Dwight being the youngest.

Then to make matters even more challenging, twins were born one month after the death of the father bringing the total to nine mouths for his mother to feed. His uncle came to the aid of the family but he was a false teacher and so Moody was fed spiritual lies.

With his poverty stricken condition, Moody could only get a seventh grade education and that in a one-room schoolhouse as he worked on neighboring

farms. When he was seventeen, he went to Boston to seek employment and became a clerk in a shoe store.

After he got saved, the Church wasn't sure about his "spiritual perception" so it was a whole year before they would let him join! Then he began teaching and recruiting students to Sunday School which soon overflowed the place but because of some of his practices, the people in the Church called him 'Crazy Moody.' But he continued to press on, even doing the janitor work for the Church.

In fact, a little known trait of Moody was that he was a whiz when it came to finances. So much so that friends believed he could have become a millionaire if had he concentrated his efforts in business.

So what did Dwight Moody do? He abandoned secular employment to go into the Lord's work full time where his income for his first year totaled no more than \$300."

Now folks, maybe it's just me but if anyone had a "right" to complain it was Dwight Moody, right? But people, what did he do? Somewhere along the line **he had a choice to make**. And apparently he chose once and for all not whine and complain against God but to worship God! To glorify Him, not the devil. And because of that, what happened? God used that man in a mighty mighty way.

And people, I'm here to tell you that it's the same choice with you and I. If you're sick and tired of reading the Bible in one hand and looking at you're life in the other thinking something doesn't match up here, then you too need to choose once and for all, what kind of life you want to live. A whiny crybaby sad excuse for a Christian life that whines at the slightest

infraction, or a life that worships God glorifying His name no matter what comes your way. And if you choose to glorify God, then you'll not only discover **The Secret To A Worshipful Life** like Dwight Moody did, but you'll be empowered to finally have A Life Worth Living For!

To find the way to God, to understand the *truth* of God's Word, and to receive the gift of eternal *life*, begin by repentance and faith through a prayer like this:

“Dear God, I understand that I have broken Your Law and sinned against You. Please forgive my sins. Thank You that Jesus suffered on the cross in my place. I now place my trust in Him as My Savior and Lord. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.”
