

Why Complain?  
God is in Control.

In a place like this it is so easy to complain. If you don't believe me read some of the blog posts that many of the inmates write. They complain because the Department of Corrections changes this or takes that away from us. Many times they are upset because they do not understand why the powers to be make the decisions they make.

I do understand why this happens. I believe part of it is not being in control. Surrender to the authorities is one of the hardest parts of prison life. Inmates have a hard time recognizing that the guards and staff are not our peers. They all have authority over us and there is nothing we can do about it.

Now there are some who would disagree with me on this statement. These are the ones that continually write grievances or, on a greater scale, act out against the authorities thinking those actions will change ~~the~~<sup>The</sup> grievated action. Most of the time it does not.

What does God say about complaining? Paul tells the Philippians, "do all things without grumbling or disputing...(Phil 2:14 NASB). He tells the Thessalonians, "in everything give thanks; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus (1 Thess. 5:18). It's not just Paul who talks about not complaining. In Psalm 34:4 David says, "I sought the Lord, and He answered me, and delivered me from all my fears." He is saying that faith and prayer exclude all complaining.

So as Christians, we are to surrender all to God and trust in him for all our needs. He is in control. Whenever you feel you have got it bad think about the following prayer. Download it and share it with others.

Thomas "Preacher" Beam

*Preacher*

## I HAVE A PROBLEM

FATHER, I HAVE A PROBLEM. IT'S WEIGHING HEAVY ON ME. IT'S ALL I CAN THINK ABOUT NIGHT AND DAY. BEFORE I BRING IT TO YOU IN PRAYER, I SUPPOSE I SHOULD PRAY FOR THOSE WHO ARE LESS FORTUNATE THAN ME - THOSE IN THIS WORLD WHO HAVE HARDLY ENOUGH FOOD FOR THIS DAY, AND FOR THOSE WHO DON'T HAVE A ROOF OVER THEIR HEADS AT NIGHT.

I PRAY FOR FAMILIES WHO HAVE LOST LOVED ONES IN SUDDEN DEATH, FOR PARENTS WHOSE CHILDREN HAVE LEUKEMIA, FOR THE MANY PEOPLE WHO ARE DYING OF BRAIN TUMORS, FOR THE HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS WHO ARE LAID WASTE WITH OTHER TERRIBLE CANCERS, FOR PEOPLE WHOSE BODIES HAVE BEEN SUDDENLY SHATTERED IN CAR WRECKS, FOR THOSE WHO ARE LYING IN HOSPITALS WITH AGONIZING BURNS OVER THEIR BODIES, WHOSE FACES HAVE BEEN BURNED BEYOND RECOGNITION.

I PRAY FOR PEOPLE WITH EMPHYSEMA, WHOSE EYES FILL WITH TERROR AS THEY STRUGGLE FOR EVERY BREATH MERELY TO LIVE, FOR THOSE WHO ARE TORMENTED BEYOND WORDS BY IRRATIONAL FEARS, FOR THE ELDERLY WHO ARE WRACKED WITH THE PAINS OF AGING, WHOSE ONLY ESCAPE IS DEATH.

I PRAY FOR PEOPLE WHO ARE WATCHING THEIR LOVED ONES FADE BEFORE THEIR EYES THROUGH THE GRIEF OF ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE, FOR THE MANY THOUSANDS WHO ARE SUFFERING THE AGONY OF AIDS, FOR THOSE WHO ARE IN SUCH DESPAIR THAT THEY ARE CONTEMPLATING SUICIDE, FOR PEOPLE WHO ARE TORMENTED BY THE DEMONS OF ALCOHOLISM AND DRUG ADDICTION.

I PRAY FOR CHILDREN WHO HAVE BEEN ABANDONED BY THEIR PARENTS, FOR THOSE WHO ARE SEXUALLY ABUSED, FOR WIVES HELD IN QUIET DESPAIR BEATEN AND ABUSED BY CRUEL DRUNKEN HUSBANDS, FOR PEOPLE WHOSE MINDS HAVE BEEN DESTROYED BY MENTAL DISORDERS.

I PRAY FOR THE BLIND WHO NEVER SEE THE FACES OF THE ONES THEY LOVE OR THE BEAUTY OF A SUNRISE, FOR THE MANY WHOSE LIVES WILL BE TAKEN FROM THEM TODAY BY MURDERS, FOR THOSE WASTING AWAY ON THEIR DEATHBEDS IN HOSPITALS.

MOST OF ALL, I CRY OUT FOR THE MILLIONS WHO DON'T KNOW THE FORGIVENESS THAT IS IN JESUS CHRIST, FOR THOSE WHO IN A MOMENT OF TIME WILL BE SWEEPED INTO HELL BY THE COLD HAND OF DEATH, AND FIND TO THEIR UTTER HORROR THE UNSPEAKABLE VENGEANCE OF ETERNAL FIRE. THEY WILL BE ETERNALLY DAMNED TO EVERLASTING PUNISHMENT.

O GOD, I PRAY FOR THEM!

STRANGE. I CAN'T SEEM TO REMEMBER WHAT MY PROBLEM WAS. IN JESUS' PRECIOUS NAME I PRAY. AMEN

THOMAS "PREACHER" BEAM

*Preacher*

As I meditate on the above prayer I must always try to remember that no matter how hard my life is there are people out there whose life is worse than mine. I caused some of this hurt to the people in my live. For that I am truly sorry.

As far as complaining goes, I will not do it. Paul said in Phil. 4:11 "Not that I speak from want; for I have learned to be content in whatever circumstances I am." I am content not because I have acquiesced or settled for my life but because I have the peace and contentment of Jesus in my heart.

Tell me what you think...

I love you and I pray that God either begins to or continues to work visibly in your life. If you wish to write me direct please use the address on my profile page. Remember, if you make comments or have questions you have posted on my blog I will respond to those questions or comments through an additional blog post so be sure to check back often.

Thomas "Preacher" Beam

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Preacher". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the printed name "Thomas 'Preacher' Beam".